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WORK ON TIES

Rubio to visit India in May, says U.S. envoy

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BJP ups welfare pitch in Bengal

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SHIFTING ROLE

Myanmar junta chief sworn in as President

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10 killed as overcrowded boat capsizes in Yamuna

The boat ferrying around 30 people, all from Punjab, reportedly collided with an iron pontoon bridge before overturning in Mathura district of U.P.; around 18 rescued, search is on for more

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A boat carrying devotees from Punjab capsized in Yamuna river in Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, leaving at least 10 dead.

About 18 people were rescued with some sustaining injuries. Efforts were being made to locate the others, Mathura's District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said. Mr. Singh said all devotees on the boat were from Punjab.

The boat was ferrying around 30 passengers between Vrindavan and nearby areas when it reportedly collided with an iron pontoon bridge built across the river near Keshi Ghat. The impact caused the allegedly overcrowded boat to overturn. Local people said that the boat began to sway violently due to gusty winds and picked up speed before the collision. Rescue operations were under way with the National and State Disaster Response Forces (NDRF and SDRF) and local divers searching deeper stretches of the river. Senior officials were at the scene to monitor the situation.

Against the current: Rescue personnel conduct a search operation in Yamuna river after a boat carrying pilgrims capsized near Keshi Ghat, in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday. PTI

"Around 3:15 p.m., a boat capsized in the Yamuna river between Bansiwat and Kesi Ghat... Approximately 25 to 27 people were on board. Exact numbers are being confirmed... The boat capsized after colliding with the [pontoon] bridge. Ten bodies have been recovered so far. Fire service teams, police teams, local divers, and sailors are engaged in rescue operations. Medical teams are also present. Those rescued have been sent to the hospital for treatment. A search is under way for those who are missing," said Shailesh Kumar Pandey, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Agra Range.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident. "Deeply pained by the mishap due to the capsizing of a boat in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. My condolences to those who have lost their near and dear ones.The local administration is assisting those affected," the Prime Minister wrote in a post on social media.

President Droupadi Murmu too condoled the loss of lives and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured.

(With inputs from PTI)

India 'concerned' over mass civilian deaths in Lebanon

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Friday expressed "deep concern" over the loss of civilian lives in Wednesday's Israeli bombing of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Speaking at a press briefing at the National Media Centre, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said respect for "sovereignty and territorial integrity" within the international state system is "essential".

"We are deeply concerned by reports of a large number of civilian casualties in Lebanon. India has always emphasised the protection of civilians as the foremost priority. Observing international law, and respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states is essential," said Mr. Jaiswal, who stopped short of mentioning Israel. He said the Indian Embassy in Beirut remains in close touch with the Indian community in Lebanon for its "safety and security".

The comments came after Israel struck targets in Beirut on Wednesday, even as a ceasefire came into effect in West Asia, claiming that they served as command and control centres of Hezbollah, the Iran-backed group that has been fighting against back as the U.S.-Israel war on Iran intensified.

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Vance warns Iran

ISLAMABAD

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance warned Iran against trying to "play" Washington, as he set off for talks in Pakistan aimed at transforming a fragile ceasefire into a lasting peace deal. » PAGE 16

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Kerala girl found dead near waterfall

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A 15-year-old girl from Palakkad in Kerala, who had been missing since Tuesday evening near Manikyadhara Falls in Chikkamagaluru of Karnataka, was found dead on Friday.

The body of Sreenanda was found about 500 metres below a watchtower.

While the police said that it would probe the death of the girl, her relatives alleged foul play, saying that it was unlikely that she accidentally fell to her death.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

SC to take up plea of Indians 'forced' to fight in Ukraine war

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to intervene on behalf of 26 persons "stuck" in Russia and made to fight in the Ukraine war "unwillingly", indicating a "human trafficking" angle.

A three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta to obtain a copy of their petition and enquire with the Centre about the plight of Indians caught in the Russia-Ukraine crossfire.

"We are stuck in Russia. We are fighting for a foreign state unwillingly... We could be either dead or injured. We are in an extreme situation," the counsel for the petitioners submitted, pleading for urgent help. The petition claimed they have been victims of illegal overseas recruitment, trafficking and exploitation of Indian citizens. "But no FIRs have been registered. Business for them is going on, full-fledged," the counsel said.

"This is a case of human trafficking," Justice Bagchi said. Chief Justice Kant, addressing Mr. Mehta, said the petition has alleged that illegal overseas recruitment rackets lure gullible youth with promises of high-paying jobs, their passports are seized, and they are forced into the Army. "God knows what is happening, what is the truth. This is very serious," Mr. Mehta responded.

CONTINUED ON
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PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

Off the boil: examining Varun Chakaravarthy's sudden downturn

Until recently, the mystery spinner was the world's top-ranked T20I bowler. But since the Super Eights at the 2026 T20 World Cup, the 34-year-old's game has unravelled. What has led to this surprising dip in form? Are there mitigating circumstances? And can the World Cup winner return to his unplayable best during the IPL?

Vivek Krishnan

The notion of balance between bat and ball in a T20 contest is like logic in a Bollywood potboiler. It simply isn't there.

Particularly on flat pitches and small grounds, ubiquitous as they are in this part of the world, a T20 game turning into a six-hitting duel can be a run-of-the-mill occurrence. It is more a reflection of the reality than a condemnation of the shortest format, for it would be disingenuous to expect equilibrium between bat and ball from a genre that was designed to feed the onlookers' ostensible thirst for fours and sixes from its very inception in 2003.

Skewed balance

With those wielding the willow constantly emboldened to think bigger, that balance has only become more skewed of late. It requires a coalition of copious skill, cricketing smarts and considerable stubbornness, therefore, for a bowler to still thrive in this format.

Until recently, Varun Chakaravarthy was thriving and how. Having made a comeback into India's T20 set-up in October 2024 – his first stint in 2021 had seen him claim two scalps in six games before being discarded – the spinner from Tamil Nadu rose to numero uno in ICC's bowling rankings ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup. From the time of his return to January 31, 2026, Varun struck 57 times in 30 matches at an economy of 7.42 – no bowler picked up more wickets for a full-member nation in this period.

With the inimitable Jasprit Bumrah helming the attack, the Men in Blue appeared to have eight bankable overs at their disposal every time they stepped onto the field in defence of the title.

But as the cricketing caravan moved across India and Sri Lanka, Varun's game surprisingly unravelled.

His overall output in the showpiece event may not point in that direction – he finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker alongside Bumrah with 14 scalps in nine matches.

But delve into his returns once the Super Eight stage started, when sterner rivals and greater pressure had to be encountered, and a dip is noticeable. In the tournament's last five matches, when it must be said the surfaces were much better for batting, Varun claimed just five scalps whilst giving away an alarming 11.84 runs per over.

The lowest ebb was against England in the semifinals. A year previously, the mystery bowler from Chennai had bamboozled the Bazballers with 14 wickets in a five-match affair as Suryakumar Yadav's troops sauntered to a 4-1 win.

In a stark departure from that series, the 34-year-old was pummelled for 64 runs by the Englishmen – the visitors responded to India's 253 for seven by amassing 246 for seven – on a placid pitch at the Wankhede Stadium. Of all the bowlers who completed their full quota, Varun's figures were the costliest.

His barren spell seems to have spilled over to the start of the Indian Premier League as well. In Kolkata Knight Riders' first two matches, against Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad, he conceded 48 and 31 runs without taking a wicket. The second outing may not look bad until you consider he was used for only two overs. His opening over was taken for 25 runs as Abhishek Sharma greeted his India colleague with a towering six over long-on.

> In the first round of the World Cup, only 26.39% of his balls were in the 6-7 metre length, and 12.5% were in the 7-8 metre length. But after that, the corresponding figures were 37.27% and 21.82%
>
> **HIMANISH GANJOO**
> Former India analyst

AP GETTY IMAGES

> It is a result of the pitches he's been playing on. If the wicket is flat, it is difficult to get deviation with the leg-break ... But you will see a difference in him very soon
>
> **A.C. PRATHIBAN**
> Varun's personal coach

VARUN IN T20IS FROM OCT 2024-JAN 2026

7.42 Economy-rate

1.9 Wickets per game

SINCE SUPER EIGHTS OF 2026 T20 WORLD CUP

11.84 Economy-rate

1 Wicket per game

So, what has precipitated the sudden downturn? To understand that, it's important to first examine what he was doing right.

Multidimensional control

As Himanish Ganjoo, a former analyst with the Indian team, points out, Varun's success over a 15-month period in T20Is had a lot to do with his immaculate control over the five-to-six metre length and his propensity to home in on the stumps.

"For many years, spinners bowled the four-to-five metre length [the good length in Tests] to get wickets. But as T20 batters became more attacking, that became easy to step down and hit. If you look at the data, the trend is that spinners have been going shorter and faster. Varun zeroed in on the five-to-six metre zone very well, which is the defensive good-length," Ganjoo tells *The Hindu*. "Then because he targets the stumps a lot, you're not giving space to the batter in either dimension."

In addition, Varun's well-documented switch from side-spin to over-spin to generate extra bounce, combined with the element of mystery emanating from his repertoire that comprises a well-disguised googly and the leg-break, made him a formidable force. The leg-break became a subject of focus to compensate for an ineffective carrom ball, a delivery that he abandoned post 2021. Guiding him through these aspects was former Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry off-spinner A.C. Prathiban.

"A lot of people [batters] had the idea of playing him as an off-spinner, but that completely changed at the point of time when he started bowling his away-going leg-break. The carrom ball wasn't working on good surfaces, it wasn't going away from the right-hander. That's when he made the change and worked a lot on the leg-break for 6-8 months. It was his idea," informs Prathiban.

As the T20 World Cup wore on, however, Varun's lengths became shorter. "In the first round of the World Cup, only 26.39% of his balls were in the 6-7 metre length, and 12.5% were in the 7-8 metre length. But after that, the corresponding figures were 37.27% and 21.82%," Ganjoo, whose stint with the national team included the 2024 triumph, reveals.

Curiously, the frequency of the leg-break has also come down, perhaps excising the doubt in a batter's mind about which way the ball would turn.

"When that happens and you play this bowler for long enough, it's easier for you to set up to play the ball coming in. And just play him like a medium-pacer who's seaming the ball a little bit and seaming it in always," Ganjoo says. "So, what's happening is whenever he goes a little fuller, and by little fuller I mean even slightly fuller than let's say five or six metres, that's a good length for a spinner. But if you're playing him like a medium-pacer, that's a ball in the slot."

Cause and effect

Varun, of course, would have his reasons for these adjustments. "It is a result of the pitches he's been playing on. If the wicket is flat, it is difficult to get deviation with the leg-break," Prathiban counters. "The googly is the wicket-taking ball because he gets more deviation with it. And Varun is looked at as a strike bowler. To get wickets, that is the most important ball. And the shorter balls are because you are not in a position to bowl fuller. The pitches are just so good," he adds, before stating, "But you will see a difference in him very soon."

Prathiban's assertion may stem from the fact that Varun has dealt with similar setbacks before. When he was left out after a disappointing T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates five years ago, few expected the tweaker to soar in India's blue shade again. Having done that, redressing the asymmetry between his optimum capability and current form shouldn't be beyond him.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	13,590	18
2	Jannik Sinner	24	12,400	19
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,205	22
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,720	18
5	Lorenzo Musetti	24	4,265	22
6	Alex de Minaur	27	4,095	22
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,000	26
8	Ben Shelton	23	3,900	23
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,870	23
10	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,610	24
11	Alexander Bublik	28	3,345	25
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,625	22
13	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,490	22
14	Karen Khachanov	29	2,410	24
15	Andrey Rublev	28	2,400	24

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 287 ▼ 6 spots

Karan Singh
Rank 426 ▼ 13 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	11,025	20
2	Elena Rybakina	26	8,108	22
3	Coco Gauff	22	7,278	20
4	Iga Swiatek	24	7,263	20
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,243	22
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,995	20
7	Elina Svitolina	31	3,965	16
8	Jasmine Paolini	30	3,907	20
9	Victoria Mboko	19	3,531	21
10	Mirra Andreeva	18	3,121	20
11	Belinda Bencic	29	3,090	19
12	Karolina Muchova	29	2,993	16
13	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,886	25
14	Linda Noskova	21	2,801	23
15	Naomi Osaka	28	2,324	21

Top Indians ▶

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 383 ▲ 8 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 384 ▲ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	31	21	7	3	61	22	39	70
2	Man. City	30	18	7	5	60	28	32	61
3	Man. United	31	15	10	6	56	43	13	55
4	Aston Villa	31	16	6	9	42	37	5	54
5	Liverpool	31	14	7	10	50	42	8	49
6	Chelsea	31	13	9	9	53	38	15	48
7	Brentford	31	13	7	11	46	42	4	46
8	Everton	31	13	7	11	37	35	2	46
9	Fulham	31	13	5	13	43	44	-1	44
10	Brighton	31	11	10	10	41	37	4	43
11	Sunderland	31	11	10	10	32	36	-4	43
12	Newcastle	31	12	6	13	44	45	-1	42
13	Bournemouth	31	9	15	7	46	48	-2	42
14	Crystal Palace	30	10	9	11	33	35	-2	39
15	Leeds United	31	7	12	12	37	48	-11	33
16	N. Forest	31	8	8	15	31	43	-12	32
17	Tottenham	31	7	9	15	40	50	-10	30
18	West Ham	31	7	8	16	36	57	-21	29
19	Burnley	31	4	8	19	33	61	-28	20
20	Wolves	31	3	8	20	24	54	-30	17

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	31	23	3	5	71	26	45	72
2	Napoli	31	20	5	6	47	30	17	65
3	AC Milan	31	18	9	4	47	24	23	63
4	Como	31	16	10	5	53	22	31	58
5	Juventus	31	16	9	6	54	29	25	57
6	Roma	31	17	3	11	42	28	14	54
7	Atalanta	31	14	11	6	44	27	17	53
8	Bologna	31	13	6	12	40	37	3	45
9	Lazio	31	11	11	9	32	29	3	44
10	Sassuolo	31	12	6	13	38	41	-3	42
11	Udinese	31	11	7	13	35	42	-7	40
12	Torino	31	10	6	15	35	53	-18	36
13	Parma	31	8	11	12	22	39	-17	35
14	Genoa	31	8	9	14	36	44	-8	33
15	Fiorentina	31	7	11	13	36	44	-8	32
16	Cagliari	31	7	9	15	32	44	-12	30
17	Cremonese	31	6	9	16	26	46	-20	27
18	Lecce	31	7	6	18	21	43	-22	27
19	Verona	31	3	9	19	22	53	-31	18
20	Pisa	31	2	12	17	23	55	-32	18

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	30	25	1	4	80	29	51	76
2	Real Madrid	30	22	3	5	64	28	36	69
3	Villarreal	30	18	4	8	54	35	19	58
4	Atletico Madrid	30	17	6	7	50	30	20	57
5	Real Betis	30	11	12	7	44	37	7	45
6	Celta Vigo	30	11	11	8	44	37	7	44
7	Real Sociedad	30	11	8	11	46	45	1	41
8	Getafe	30	12	5	13	27	31	-4	41
9	Osasuna	30	10	8	12	36	37	-1	38
10	Espanyol	30	10	8	12	36	44	-8	38
11	Athletic Club	30	11	5	14	32	43	-11	38
12	Girona	30	9	10	11	32	44	-12	37
13	Rayo Vallecano	30	8	11	11	29	35	-6	35
14	Valencia	30	9	8	13	34	45	-11	35
15	Alaves	30	8	8	14	32	43	-11	32
16	Real Mallorca	30	8	7	15	36	48	-12	31
17	Sevilla	30	8	7	15	37	50	-13	31
18	Elche	30	6	11	13	38	47	-9	29
19	Levante	30	6	8	16	34	50	-16	26
20	Real Oviedo	30	5	9	16	21	48	-27	24

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	28	23	4	1	100	27	73	73
2	Dortmund	28	19	7	2	60	28	32	64
3	RB Leipzig	28	16	5	7	55	36	19	53
4	Stuttgart	28	16	5	7	56	38	18	53
5	Hoffenheim	28	15	5	8	55	41	14	50
6	Leverkusen	28	14	7	7	58	39	19	49
7	E. Frankfurt	28	10	9	9	52	53	-1	39
8	SC Freiburg	28	10	7	11	41	47	-6	37
9	Mainz	28	8	9	11	35	43	-8	33
10	Union Berlin	28	8	8	12	32	47	-15	32
11	FC Augsburg	28	9	5	14	34	51	-17	32
12	Hamburg	28	7	10	11	32	41	-9	31
13	M'gladbach	28	7	9	12	35	48	-13	30
14	Werder	28	7	7	14	31	49	-18	28
15	Cologne	28	6	9	13	40	49	-9	27
16	St Pauli	28	6	7	15	25	45	-20	25
17	Wolfsburg	28	5	6	17	38	63	-25	21
18	Heidenheim	28	3	7	18	29	63	-34	16

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	840	840
2	Virat Kohli	791	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	756	756
4	Rohit Sharma	748	879
5	Shubman Gill	716	841
6	Babar Azam	684	894
7	Shai Hope	679	782
7	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	664	676
9	Salman Agha	664	664

ODI Bowling

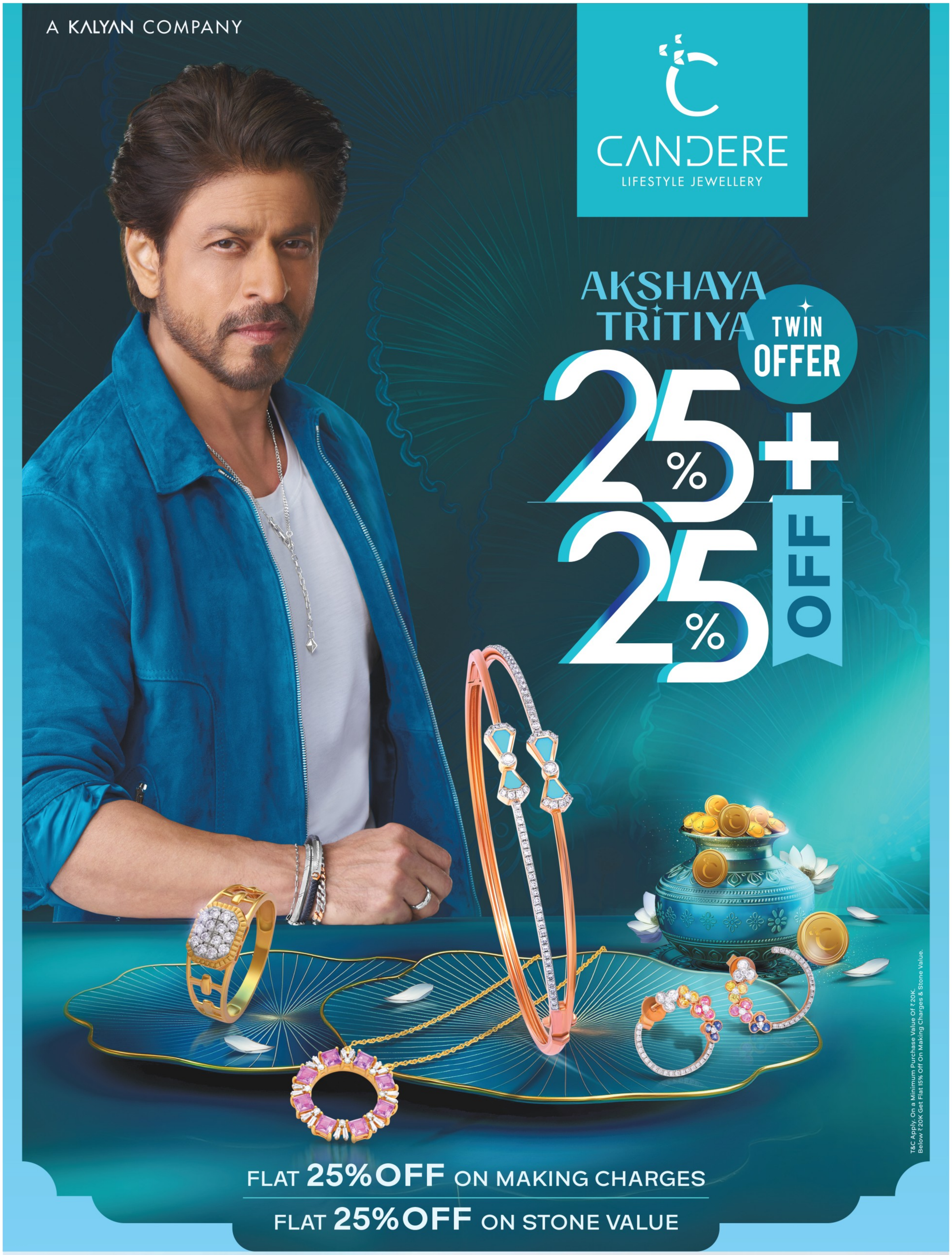
#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	705	775
2	Jofra Archer	649	682
3	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
4	Adil Rashid	629	671
5	Josh Hazlewood	626	725
6	Mehidy Hasan	624	722
6	Maheesh Theekshana	624	680
6	Kuldeep Yadav	624	757
9	Mitchell Santner	617	656
10	Bernard Scholtz	614	631

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
8	Jos Buttler	716	794
9	Tim Seifert	712	749
10	Dewald Brevis	702	738

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Corbin Bosch	669	745
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757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How Lamine Yamal became the face of post-Messi Barcelona

After powering the club to the domestic treble last season, the boy wonder has helped drive the Blaugrana to the top of LaLiga and into the Champions League's last eight. His goal-scoring, playmaking and dribbling have fuelled his dizzying rise to superstardom. Having inherited Barcelona's iconic No. 10 shirt, there is no doubt the 18-year-old is the club's leading man

He's in a very sweet moment – fast, resilient, producing flashes of brilliance. He's a better footballer than he was two years ago, but not as good as he'll be in two years. He has magic
LUIS DE LA FUENTE
Spain coach
LAMINE YAMAL IN 2025-26
(FOR BARCA & SPAIN)
21 goals
16 assists
4.8 dribbles per game

GETTY IMAGES

Reuters
Associated Press

In February, Joan Laporta – re-elected Barcelona president last month – claimed that the club had rejected a 250 million euro offer from PSG for Lamine Yamal in the summer of 2024.

Had it been accepted, the purported offer would have made the wonderkid the most valuable footballer in history, eclipsing the 222 million euro PSG had forked out for Neymar in 2017. It would have also gone a long way towards addressing Barcelona's financial struggles and economic uncertainty, but the club held firm; Yamal was deemed to be priceless.

The cutting edge

Almost two years later, the decision looks even more impressive. Yamal, who heightened PSG's interest with a breakout performance at Euro 2024, has become the face of Barcelona's post-Lionel Messi era. The 18-year-old, left-footed but operating on the right flank with freedom to roam, as Messi did for many years, is what gives Hansi Flick's brilliant Barcelona its edge.

Last year, Yamal was handed Barcelona's iconic number 10 shirt previously worn by Messi during his trophy-laden years. Yamal earned the jersey after a stellar 2024-25, during which he netted 18 goals and provided 25 assists as Barcelona swept the domestic treble of LaLiga, Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup, and reached the semifinals of the Champions League.

The number 10 shirt carries enormous weight at Camp Nou, having been sported by some of the game's finest. In addition to Messi, Diego Maradona and Ronaldinho have elevated the jersey's aura. It appears to fit Yamal rather well, with the teenager continuing his dizzying rise to superstardom in 2025-26 even as he navigates the challenges of life as a celebrity.

Early in the season, he sparked controversy with a regal goal celebration, pretending to crown himself after scoring against Mallorca in a 3-0 win.

The gesture appeared to anoint Yamal as the new king in his inherited number 10 shirt, and he has continued to deliver the goods. His goal-scoring, playmaking and dribbling have helped Barcelona to the top of LaLiga and into the quarterfinals of the Champions League – all this despite dealing with a nagging groin injury.

Either directly, from his dangerous in-swinging crosses and piercing through-balls, or indirectly, with incisive sleight-of-foot trickery that can take out as many as three opponents, Yamal breaks down defences with regularity. He has also proven a fine foil for Raphinha, deployed on the left, when Barcelona counter-attacks at pace, with the Brazilian winger often racing onto clever passes played by the Spanish boy genius.

"He's in a very sweet moment – fast, resilient, producing flashes of brilliance," said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente during the recent international break. "He's a better footballer than he was two years ago, but not as good as he'll be in two years.

> Messi paved the way with the No. 10, I will make mine. I'm going to enjoy myself, and be myself
> **LAMINE YAMAL**

He draws attention, he has magic."

Central to Yamal's ability to solve problems and decide matches is a trait he shares with many of football's greatest-ever players – the game slows to his will even when he is at top pace, the ball sticks to his feet even under the most extreme pressure from his markers. As a result, he finds space and time when there seems to be none for the merely very good player.

Inevitable parallels

"Lamine Yamal... he's like Messi. Does he surprise me? No. Everyone knows how good he is, he can dribble past anyone," said former Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde. Yamal, who as a baby in 2007 was remarkably photographed being bathed by the then 20-year-old Messi for a charity calendar, has always been wary of the parallels, inevitable as they seem.

"Messi is the best player in history, and being compared to him means I'm doing things right. But I don't compare myself to him, because I don't compare myself to anyone – and much less with Messi. We are thinking about improving ourselves every day. I'm going to enjoy myself, and be myself," he once said, but it hasn't stopped the comparisons from pouring in.

Yamal has also had to deal with the pressure of attention off the field. A lot of his life finds itself in the media. This includes incredibly challenging moments such as when his father was stabbed, as well as questionable decisions in his private life. He found himself under scrutiny after turning 18, with a Spanish disability rights group threatening legal action over reports of people with dwarfism being hired as entertainment at his 18th birthday party.

Yamal – who grew up in coastal Mataro, a working-class, multi-ethnic suburb of Barcelona – has faced racist and xenophobic abuse at football stadiums. He has been 'criticised' for how he looks, what he wears, how he acts. Adults would find this extremely difficult to endure; imagine what it would be like for a teen in the crucible of high-stakes professional sport.

After scoring a hat-trick in February, he wrote about his "internal abyss" on social media: "I would like to be everything that everyone wants me to be."

Asked about it by the *Guardian*, he said, "It was a mix of everything; I wasn't happy on the pitch and I think you could tell. I didn't feel like smiling on the pitch; I couldn't find that and I wasn't happy. I didn't feel right. But for the last week or so I have, and I have that smile back, enjoying football like when you're a kid."

With the smile back on his face, Yamal enters the business end of the club season with clear ambitions. He was beaten to the Ballon d'Or by Ousmane Dembele last season, something Flick said would drive the electric winger to greater heights. The Barca manager challenged Yamal to improve his work-rate, and he has been working on his out-of-possession game ever since.

The big two

Yamal will hope that the work he has put in pays off in two very important tournaments. Last season, Barcelona was beaten in the Champions League semifinal by Inter Milan despite two sensational displays by Yamal. It's something he wants to set right this year, but he will need to produce a miracle after the two-goal loss to Atletico Madrid in the first leg of the quarterfinals. He completed a staggering nine dribbles in the defeat as he attempted to drag 10-man Barca to parity. It wasn't enough on the night, but don't write his chances off just yet.

And after the club season ends, Yamal will find himself on football's biggest global stage, the World Cup.

Stocking his trophy cabinet with the titles that are missing from it is Yamal's immediate aim. "I haven't won the Champions League and the World Cup," he said. "These are my goals now."

If he manages that, the comparisons with Messi will only grow.

GAME THEORY

In boss mode: Kerr's all-round excellence

Amelia Kerr enjoyed a terrific home season as New Zealand captain, batter and leg-spinner. The 25-year-old scored two T20I hundreds and a stunning ODI hundred (179 n.o.), and bagged a seven-for and a five-for in ODIs, to help her team win four successive white-ball series. Kerr has built a strong case to be considered among the finest white-ball all-rounders in the history of the women's game: she is one of only five to have completed both the 2000-run-100-wicket ODI double and the 1000-run-100-wicket T20I double

THE 2000-RUN-100-WICKET DOUBLE IN ODIS

Player	Team	Mat	Runs	Bat Ave	Wkts	Bowl Ave
Stafanie Taylor	West Indies	176	6,132	42.58	157	22.14
Ellyse Perry	Australia	168	4,581	48.22	166	25.56
Marizanne Kapp	South Africa	162	3,511	35.11	181	24.24
Sophie Devine	New Zealand	159	4,279	32.66	111	36.27
Sune Luus	South Africa	151	3,141	28.04	128	23.96
Lisa Sthalekar	Australia	125	2,728	30.65	146	24.97
Deepti Sharma	India	124	2,771	35.98	166	27.69
Shashikala Siriwardene	Sri Lanka	118	2,029	18.44	124	28.84
Dane van Niekerk	South Africa	110	2,273	36.66	138	19.14
Hayley Matthews	West Indies	105	3,301	34.03	135	24.04
Amelia Kerr	**New Zealand**	**90**	**2,659**	**43.59**	**126**	**27.54**

THE 1000-RUN-100-WICKET DOUBLE IN T20IS

Player	Team	Mat	Runs	Bat Ave	Wkts	Bowl Ave
Ellyse Perry	Australia	174	2,297	30.22	127	18.89
Nida Dar	Pakistan	160	2,091	17.87	144	20.2
Sophie Devine	New Zealand	151	3,587	28.46	128	18.87
Deepti Sharma	India	136	1,108	22.16	153	19.33
Henriette Ishimwe	Rwanda	120	1,321	16.72	146	10.46
Janet Mbabazi	Uganda	119	1,545	16.09	120	12.3
Hayley Matthews	West Indies	118	3,114	28.83	118	19.2
Nattaya Boochatham	Thailand	116	1,035	12.62	126	10.89
Amelia Kerr	**New Zealand**	**96**	**1,912**	**32.96**	**104**	**20.12**
Kary Chan	Hong Kong	94	1,490	20.13	124	11.01

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM

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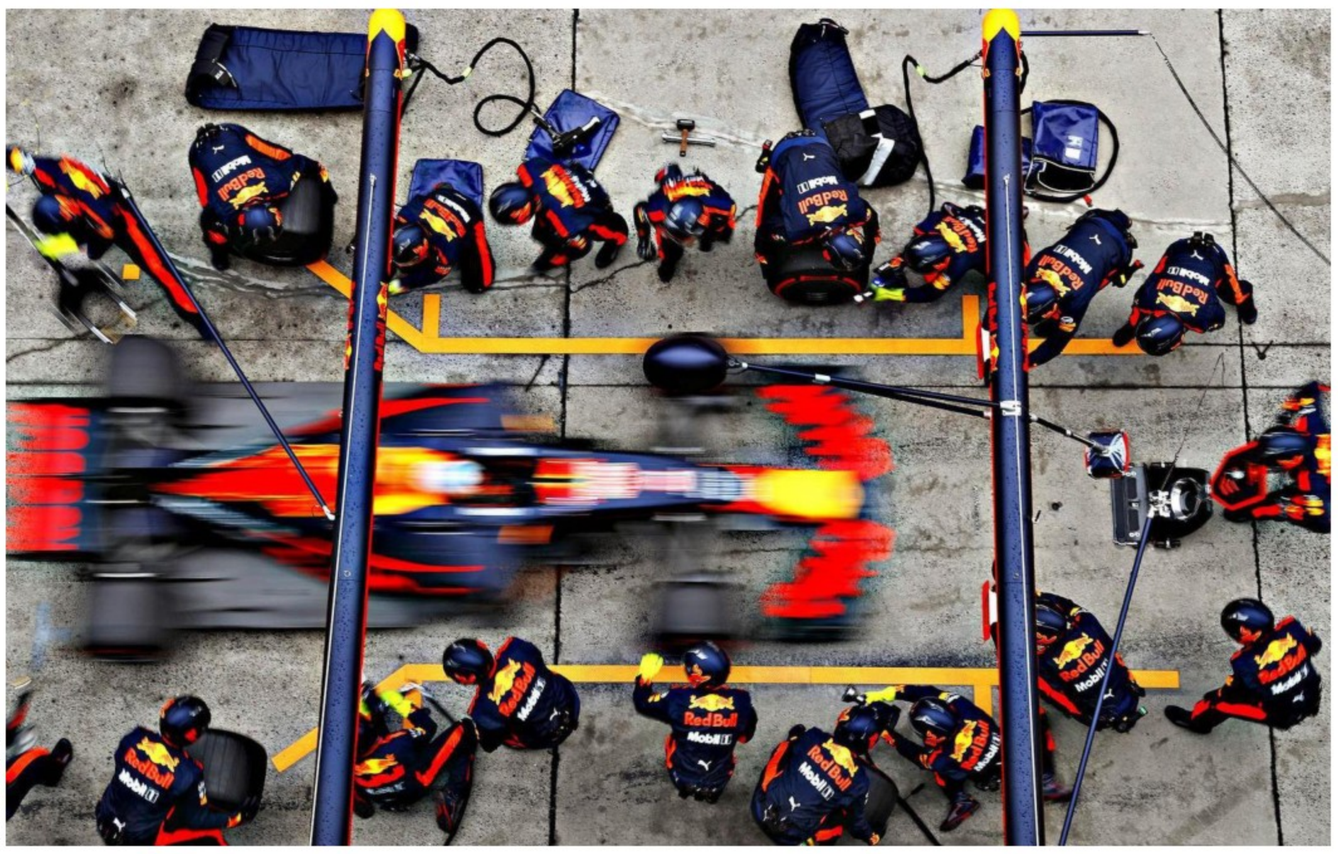


GETTY IMAGES

Box! Box!

With the Formula One season pausing because of the cancellation of the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Grands Prix, it's a good time to explore the dynamics of the pause during the race, the pit-stop.

One of motorsport's defining features, the pit-stop is when a driver briefly exits the hurly-burly of racing for refuelling (in series where it's permitted), tyre changes, repairs, mechanical adjustments, driver changes (where allowed) and penalty-serving.

In F1, refuelling is no longer allowed — a move aimed at increasing safety and reducing costs. The primary purpose of pitting is changing tyres.

To pit, drivers enter a pit-lane, which typically runs parallel to the start-finish straight of the race-track, and stop in their team's box. A crew of mechanics services the vehicle and attempts to turn it around as swiftly as possible.

Matters can get hairy during stops. The best ones, such as this from the 2017 season, are a blur. Given the amount of time lost when stationary, pit strategy — the number of stops and when to pit — is vital; it often decides races.

Monsoon readiness: Instructions issued for flood-prone areas

Tushar Giri Nath inspects such areas and directs officials to take preventive measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With pre-monsoon showers already making an early appearance, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun ground-level push to prevent a repeat of flooding in the city's most vulnerable pockets. Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development) Tushar Giri Nath inspected key flood-prone areas on Friday and directed officials to take preventive measures.

The directives were issued as part of the ground-level push to prevent a repeat of flooding in the city's most vulnerable pockets. FILE PHOTO

At Kendriya Vihar and Kogilu Junction in Yelahanka, where flooding has been a recurring concern, officials said a long-term solution is under way through the construction of a 2.7-km-long, 35-metre-wide rajakaluve (primary storm-water drain), connecting a part of Yelahanka Lake to Jakkur Lake, along with 30-foot-wide service roads on either side. While 1.5 km of the drain has already been completed, a temporary raw drain has been created along the remaining stretch to ensure uninterrupted water flow this monsoon.

Mr. Nath ordered drone documentation of ongoing works near Yelahanka Lake and called for regular desilting and continuous monitoring of the rainwater channel beneath the Kogilu Junction flyover.

In Tata Nagar, a 900-metre-long, 20-foot-wide storm-water drain is under construction to channel water from Doddabommasandra Lake. Mr. Nath here flagged the need to prevent sewage inflow into storm-water drains and called for land acquisition to widen a narrow drain near Tatanagar Royal Mart.

At Hebbal Lake, development works worth ₹15.9 crore are under way. After clearing encroachments, wetland restoration and inlet construction are in progress. At Hebbal Junction, where flooding has long disrupted traffic, systems are being put in place to divert rainwater into the lake, corporation officials told the Additional Chief Secretary, pointing out that permanent solutions have been implemented for four chronic flooding points, including the airport-bound down ramp, nearby service roads, and areas around the bus stand.

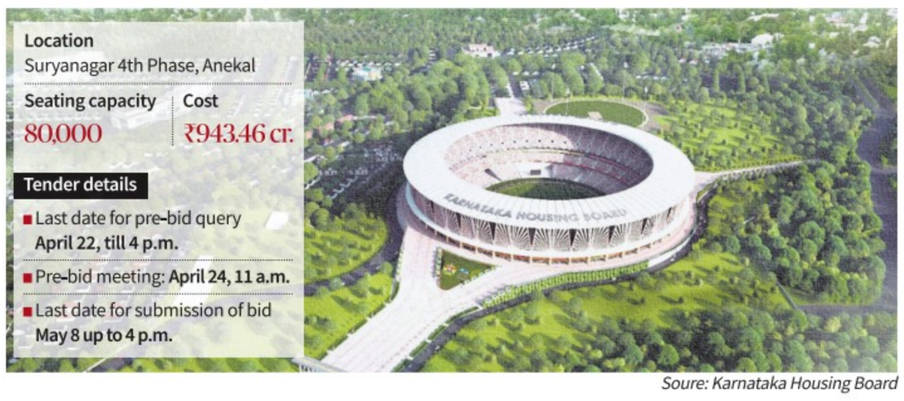
The inspection also covered Manyata Tech Park and the Veerannapalya stretch of Outer Ring Road while at Nagawara Junction, culvert construction has progressed after the shifting of a GAIL gas pipeline.

In HBR Layout, a long-delayed plan to construct an intake well and divert excess water towards Hebbal is being held up due to rocky obstructions. While the project has now been given an October deadline, officials were instructed to put in place temporary pumping arrangements to manage flows during the monsoon.

During inspection of the flood-prone Silk Board Junction, Mr. Nath reviewed ongoing measures to prevent flooding during the upcoming monsoon. Culvert construction is currently under way at the junction, along with the installation of gratings ranging from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres in height to improve storm-water flow.

He directed that all first-phase works be completed by the end of April to ensure smoother vehicular movement at the junction.

About the planned cricket stadium



Soure: Karnataka Housing Board

Karnataka Housing Board invites bids for 80,000-seat stadium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) has invited tenders for the construction of a new international cricket stadium with a seating capacity of 80,000 at Suryanagar 4th Phase in Anekal taluk, on the south-eastern outskirts of Bengaluru.

The project, estimated at ₹943.46 crore, will be executed on an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC Mode-1) turnkey basis through a two-bid system via the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, the tender notification said.

According to the tender notification, the scope of work includes the design, engineering, procurement and construction of the international cricket stadium along with allied development works at the KHB layout in Indlawadi, Anekal.

Eligible contractors registered with Central Public Works Department, Karnataka Public Works Department, or other State government agencies can participate in the bidding process.

The last date for submitting pre-bid queries is April 22, till 4 p.m., followed by a pre-bid meeting scheduled for April 24 at 11 a.m. Bids must be submitted by May 8 at 4 p.m.

The project was announced this year in the State Budget, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed the development of 'KHB Surya Kreeda Grama', an international-standard sports complex featuring an 80,000-seat cricket stadium designed to host major sporting events.

The proposal had already received approval in August 2025 from the Chief Minister, when the KHB had proposed to build a state-of-the-art sports complex, including the stadium, at Surya City in Bommasandra. Once completed, the facility is likely to be among the largest cricket stadiums in the country.

The sports facility was proposed in the backdrop of the June 4, 2025, stampede at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden win, which claimed 11 lives.

The Justice John Michael Cunha Commission, which probed the incident, observed that the existing stadium, with a seating capacity of around 32,000 and spread over 17 acres, was not suitable for hosting large-scale events. It recommended shifting such events to a more spacious venue.

'Protect city traffic police from harsh summer'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With summer temperatures in Bengaluru rising to new highs, the State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA) raised concern over the working conditions of traffic police personnel who are exposed to extreme heat and pollution for long hours.

Police personnel are required to work round the clock, says a member of the State Police Complaints Authority. FILE PHOTO

In a letter addressed to the Director General and Inspector General of Police on April 8, SPCA member Mohan Kumar Danappa urged the department to take immediate steps to safeguard the health of on-duty personnel.

He noted that police personnel, unlike other government employees, are required to work round the clock due to the nature of their duties. He pointed out that increasing temperatures, coupled with vehicular emissions and widespread dust caused by ongoing infrastructure work, including road construction and pipeline installations, have significantly worsened air quality in Bengaluru and across Karnataka. The letter says traffic police personnel are forced to perform their duties under direct sunlight, often without access to shade, leading to exhaustion, dehydration, and long-term health risks. Many officers are seen taking shelter under trees, buildings, or even parked vehicles while on duty, reflecting the lack of basic facilities at traffic signals.

He referred to recurring media reports highlighting health issues among traffic personnel, including respiratory problems caused by dust and pollution. While working hours have been adjusted for several government departments during peak summer months, police personnel continue to operate without such relief.

He recommended that the department urgently provide temporary shade structures, such as umbrellas, at traffic junctions, high-quality masks to protect against pollution, and ensure a continuous supply of drinking water and electrolytes to prevent dehydration.

Police act in 4 minutes, rescue man after his post on 'last day'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police rescued a 28-year-old man after he posted a distressing message on his WhatsApp status.

The incident occurred on Wednesday around 6.35 p.m. in Munireddy Layout near Garvebhavipalya at Begur in southeast Bengaluru. His message "Today is my last day", was seen by a friend, who immediately alerted the Namma 112 Emergency Helpline.

The helpline staff relayed the information to Hoysala-215 patrol personnel. The team reached the man's location within four minutes. They found the house locked from inside, broke open the door, and entered the house, to find the man lying unconscious on the floor. After undergoing treatment, he is out of danger, the police said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Peenya flyover to be shut for four days for load testing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic on the Peenya Flyover will be restricted for four days starting Monday, as final load testing to be carried out to ensure the structure's safety.

The movement of all types of vehicles will be prohibited from 5 a.m. on April 13 to 11 a.m. on April 17, a statement read.

The restriction will be in force from the Kennametal Widia up-ramp to the SRS down-ramp.

DOCUMENT LOST

Mr.L N Narayanaswamy & Mr.Ramesh V R (1st Parties) entered into a contract/MOU/ Marketing agreement via Estamp paper Certificate No.KA99422644409104X dated 25.07.2025 with Mr.Ramachandra, Mr.Ganapathi Kotari, Mr.Prabhakar V & Mr.K Rangaraju (2nd Parties) towards the marketing of individual plots in Sy No.203/1 & Sy No.114 situated at Gokare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru. Later, the original MOU got lost from the 2nd parties side and filed a FIR bearing No.2148333/2026 dated 09.04.2026 at Kodigehalli Police Station against the loss of the MOU/agreement. Hence the parties are mutually agreed to do new MOU/agreement against the loss of subject document.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 01/Bridges/UBL 2026-27
Dated : 06-04-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hubballi Division :	Rs. 1,17,02,751/-

Sub Work-I : Painting for the Bridges and steel structure due for year : 2026-2027. Bridge No. 208Up, 212DN, 218DN, 225A, 184DN, ROB 56 A, 192A, 121 A and IOH Shed Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) and Londa (LD) - Miraj (MRJ) Section. **Sub Work-II :** Greasing of bearings of Br. No. 16, 102DN, 208UP, 102CRZ, 3UP, Titte (TT)/ Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) & Londa (LD) - Miraj (MRJ) Section due for the year : 2026-27 and **Sub Work-III :** Proposal for replacement of elastomeric bearings for Bridge No. 79, 218 in Londa (LD) - Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) Section, under the jurisdiction of SSE/Br/Belagavi (BGM)

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 06-05-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination
PUB/21/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Hubballi
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is the absolute owner of the property bearing Site No.2P/52, Formed All the Piece and parcel of Site No.2P/52, formed out of converted land vide Comversion order No.ALNINIS-172/2004-05, dated 20-12-2004 and the layout plan approved by Nelamangala Planning Authority Vide No.NPA/LAO131/2005-06, dated 25-11-2005 in Sy.Nos. 119/1, 119/2, 119/34, 119/38, 115/3C of Nagarur Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, In all measuring 1500 Square Feet Purchased under the sale deed dated 19-03-2012. However the following title deed pertaining to the propertyhas been lost from her.
1.Rectification Deed Cum Confirmation Deed dated 05/03/2012 executed by Shree Associates & Developers and others in favour of Sri H.C Ananth Krishna and Smt Rathna.A.Krishna Document No.6345-2011-12. Book-I. MDL No.-1-06345-2011-12, CD No.MDLD101, with the office of the Sub Registrar, Rajaji Nagar (Madanayakanahalli).
Any person/s. have found the same may return it to the undersigned or any objections relating to the above may contact the below within SEVEN DAYS from the date of this notice.
Venkatesh G Advocate
KAR/919/2011
Aadhya Law Associates
No.1668/A, 14th Main Road,
HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102.
Mob. 9632900089,
Mail Id : aadhyaadhvocates@gmail.com

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Education Expo 2026
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10am to 7pm
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TRIPURAVASINI, PALACE GROUNDS, BENGALURU
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Assistance for the course selection based on CET/JEE/NEET/COMEDK and other courses.
Don't miss the opportunity to attend the CET Cell counselling session on Saturday and Sunday
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HOTEL MANAGEMENT | ANIMATION | OVERSEAS EDUCATION & MANY MORE
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LAST 2 DAYS
3 Days of Glamour, Craftsmanship & Unmatched Luxury
ASIA Jewels
Showcase of Fine Jewellery
Image : Nikhaar Jewels
Shop For Upcoming Akshaya Tritiya & Wedding Season
Discover Over 50,000+ Stunning Designs
All Under One Roof
April 10-11-12 2026
JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru
(Near UB City)
Priceless & Most Beautiful Jewellery From India's Top 50 Jewellers
10:30AM - 8PM / FRI - SUN
Entry & Valet Parking Free / Scan For Venue Direction
FINE GOLD JEWELLERY | DIAMOND JEWELLERY | PLATINUM JEWELLERY | TRADITIONAL JEWELLERY
WEDDING JEWELLERY | PRECIOUS STONE JEWELLERY | KUNDAN & POLKI JEWELLERY | LAB GROWN DIAMONDS

Man arrested for sharing 'zombie drug' video; issues apology for spreading misinformation online, say police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested a 29-year-old man for allegedly sharing a video which had triggered a public discussion over the alleged use of "zombie drugs".

The accused has been identified as Hemanth Kumar, 29, a resident of north Bengaluru working as a field executive in a private opticals company. Kumar told the police that the video was shot near a private educational institution in northeast Bengaluru.

In the purported video, a man is seen standing by the road trying to move his body but appearing unsteady. The same video

The police have urged the public to refrain from sharing unverified information and deeming it as true. GETTY IMAGES

was circulated on social media, with many commenting that the person was under the influence of what is called "zombie drugs". The video had also triggered discussions online over the alleged entry of zombie drugs into the city, raising concerns. However, on Thursday, the police clarified that the man seen in the video was not under the influence of any drugs.

Medical tests

"We tracked the individual and made him undergo medical tests. The results revealed that he had consumed alcohol along with medication prescribed for arthritis and sinus-related issues, which likely caused his condition," the police said.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that they then tracked the person who first shared the video and found it to be Kumar. In a clarification video, Kumar has issued an apology for sharing content with misinformation.

1.25L users share video

"About 1.25 lakh people have reshared the video on social media platforms, but we cannot summon all of them. We will identify criteria and filter the users to whom we will serve notices, seeking explanation," the officer said.

The police have urged the public to refrain from sharing unverified information and deeming it as true, especially when such misinformation triggers misleading public discussions.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y-E-29-2026-27-03
Dated : 06-04-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of retro reflective number plates on DA over Mysuru Division and Provision of Caution boards over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 38,22,884/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 28-04-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Traction Distribution / Mysuru
PUB/24/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of my client **MRS.REHANA BEGUM,** W/o Late.Abdul Khaleel, aged about 59 years, to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale Deed bearing doc.No.4951/1960-61, in Book-1, Volume No.2048 at pages 194 to 196, dated:17.08.1961, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, is lost.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE
All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing **New Municipal No.139/145, L.A.No.16, C.T.S No.31, Old No.14,** situated at Bapujinagar, Guddadahalli Extension, Kempapura Agrahara Dakhale, Corporation Division No.33, measuring **East to West: 30-0 Feet and North to South: 40-0 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet**, along with residential house thereon and bounded on: **East by : Property No.13 , West by : Property No.15, North by : Road, Property No.8.**
Raviprakash.H.C, Advocate,
#644/32, 6th Main, Vijayanagar,
Bengaluru-560040.
Mobile No : 9980052890 / 8660025758

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ADDENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME APRIL'26
NOTICE NO: 04/2026
e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

e-auction conducted by	Additional Auction dates are included in APRIL'26 auction schedule and which are given below	Material for auction
GSD/PER depot	17/04/2026	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website

Note: All other auctions scheduled for APRIL'26 remains unaltered
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.
Principal Chief Materials Manager

ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಹೊಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ದೂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080–29752324**
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **dwd.ddwo@gmail.com**
ಸಂ:ಜಿಅಂಕಅ/ಬೆಂನಜಿ/80/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು/ಪರಿಷತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರು/ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರಿಗೆ ಯಂತ್ರಚಾಲಿತ ದ್ವಿಚಕ್ರ ಮೋಟಾರು ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ **(website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal-home)** ಮೂಲಕ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.04.2026**. **ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.04.2026,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.05.2026**ಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ತಯಾರಕರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಕಲಚೇತನರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿರಿಯ ನಾಗರಿಕರ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಹೊಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080–29752324** ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **dwd.ddwo@gmail.com** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಂಗವಿಕಲರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/145/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/NDRF/SDRF/2025-26/69 Date: 07.04.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 9 Works)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **15-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **16-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **17-04-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **18-04-2026 @16.00.00**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/38/26-27 dt. 10.04.2026

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O.,
Bangalore - 560 072.
TENDER NOTIFICATION
No: ISEC/Regr/Estate/2026-27/01 10 April, 2026
Sealed short term tenders are invited for Procurement of required furniture, appliances and fabrication works at Dr V K R V Rao Hostel Building at ISEC for **Rs 29 lakhs** (approx) from the reputed Bengaluru based suppliers/ contractors. Interested agencies may collect the tender by paying **Rs.1000/-** by cash / DD / Pay Order of any scheduled bank drawn in favour of "The Registrar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru", from Estate Office at the above address from **13.04.2026** to **17.04.2026.** Last Date for submission of scheduled tender: **27 April 2026**. Tenders will be opened on **28 Apr 2026** at **11.00 a.m.** in the Committee Room. Interested Tenderers may be present while opening the tenders.
Sd/-
Registrar ISEC
DIPR/CP/149/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice
Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_1, Dated: 09-04-2026
Description of Work	Works contract for Mechanical repair /Rehabilitation of magnet frames (without removing coils) and both end bearing brackets of Hitachi Traction Motors of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr.DEE/RS/ED

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that our Client intends to enter into a transaction in respect of the property which is more fully detailed in the 'Schedule' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property", from its respective owners viz., (i) Mr. Vishruth Jain, son of Mr. A H Chandraprabha alias Arasapura Hairyanna Chandraprabha, (ii) Mr. R Raja Kumar alias Raja Kumara R, son of Mr. Ramappa alias Ramappa A, and (iii) Mr. Madithati Subba Reddy, son of Mr. Madithati Venkat Subba Reddy alias Venkata Subba Reddy Madithati ("Owners"). The Owners have represented that they are the absolute owners and are in possession of the Schedule Property with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.
It is hereby clarified that in the previous sale deeds, the BBMP Khatha Number was erroneously mentioned as 744/64/3. The correct and subsisting BBMP Khatha Number is 744/3/64/3. Both numbers refer to one and the same property, and no change in title, ownership, or physical extent is intended or implied by this correction.
Any person or entity including but not limited to an individual, Hindu Undivided Family, company, banks, financial institutions, non-banking financial institutions, partnership firm, limited liability partnership firm (LLP), an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and / or creditors etc., having any objection or asserting any benefit, claim or right or title or interest, of any nature whatsoever or any objection or claim towards the said khata number in respect of the Schedule Property and / or any part thereof, by way of any inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, lease, lien, license, tenancy, gift, membership possession, transfer, exchange, pledge, charge, trust, succession, easement, bequeath, assignment, attachment, right of way, lis pendens, reservation, partnership, family arrangement, settlement, maintenance decree or order of any Court of Law, development rights, FAR, consumption or any liability, commitment or demand or any encumbrance howsoever or otherwise including by way of an memorandum of understanding, Letter of Intent, deed, security documents, contract and, or, an agreement is hereby required to intimate in writing, to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their rights, interest, share, demand and, or, claim, if any, with all supporting documents and proofs, failing which any future transaction / transfer with respect to the Schedule Property shall be done without reference to such claim and all claims, if any, and all such claims and demands shall be treated as abandoned, surrendered, relinquished, released, completely waived and not enforceable/binding on our Client and/or an impediment to the title of the owner and the same shall be treated as clear and marketable without any further reference.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential plot measuring 5,003.40 sq. ft. and presently bearing BBMP Khatha No. 744/3/64/3 (originally part of converted Survey No. 64, which included 2 acres 35 guntas out of a total area of 13 acres 01 gunta), situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 55.11 feet on the North Side, 55.9 feet on the South Side, and North to South 83.1 feet on the West side, and 103.1 feet on the East side, and bounded as follows: –
East By : Land in the same Survey No. 64 belonging to Yoga Enterprises;
West By : Survey No. 112 (old Survey No. 66);
North By : 40 ft Road formed in converted land in Survey No. 64;
South By : Divyajyothi Royal Country Apartments.
Claims and objections may be sent to:
Sd/-
Sreenivasa Raghavan DV,
Partner, ATV Legal,
"Trade Center" No. 29/4, 1st & 3rd Floor, Race course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 8095829962

File No. SCMD-10020/4/2025-SCMD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Sustainable Coastal Management Division
Filling up of the post of Director in National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai on Deputation (including Short Term contract) basis
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) invites applications for the post of Director in National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai - a Registered Society on Deputation (including Short Term Contract) basis in the scale of pay of Rs. 1,44,200/- - 2,18,200/- (Level 14).
Maximum age limit is 58 years as on the last date of application.
2. For the details regarding eligibility, job responsibilities and prescribed format for submitting applications, please visit this Ministry's website www.moef.gov.in or www.ncscm.res.in.
3. Application should reach within 45 days from the date of publication of the vacancy circular in the Employment News to the following address:

Deputy Secretary
Sustainable Coastal Management Division
202, Vayu Wing
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh
New Delhi - 110003
Email- scmd-moefcc@gov.in

cbc13101/11/0027/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that my client **Satheesha K.N.** & Hemashree R. intend to purchase **Flat No.201,** in **1st Floor,** EPID No.3727299000, in **"AMBIENTE"** construction on property old No.27 and 27/1, in Sy.No.90, situated at **Upadhaya Sahakara Sanmgha Layout, Jarakabandekaval, Bangalore North Taluk, Near Mahalakshmi Layout, Ward No.10,** comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore, from **C. Shailaja.**
If any persons objecting for the sale may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned alongwith supporting documentary evidence within **15 days** from the date of this publication.
M.V.J. Law Chambers,
Jayalakshmi M.V.
No.193/5, 3rd Floor, West of Chord Road,
1st Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar,
Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore –560 086.
Mobile No. 9538305787.
Email – mvjslawchambers@gmail.com.
Place : Bangalore Date : 10-04-2026

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F,
Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere,
Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 8660593395
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.
The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:
Branch : Canara Bank, Kodamballi Branch, Kodamballi
Name and Address of the Borrower : 1. Borrower: M/s. Alankar Fashion No.701, Nanjundeshwara Complex, Kodamballi, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagaram, Karnataka –562138, **2. Proprietor: Sri. Bhoomisiddegowda K B** S/o Basavaraju, Resident Of Kondapura Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagaram, Karnataka – 562138, **3. Guarantor Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Anitha M C** W/o Nagaraju B L, Resident Of Kodamballi Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna, Ramanagaram, Karnataka – 562138
The Total Amount Due : Rs. 12,29,001.41 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand One and Forty One Paisa Only) as on **06-04-2026** together with further interest, costs and expenses with further interest and charges due to **Canara Bank, Kodamballi Branch, Kodamballi**
Description of the immovable / movable assets : All That Part And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 426/231/1/119/A, Property No: 152900101300120169, Situated At Kodamballi Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562138. **Measuring : East To West – 27.432 Meters , North To South – 10.058 Meters And Total Measurement – 275.92 Square Meters. Boundaries: East –** Land Of Applicant In Survey Number, **West –** Road, **North –** 8 Feet Road, **South –** Road And Property Of Applicant.
Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank
The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION	RESERVE PRICE	EMD AMOUNT
20-05-2026 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM	Rs. 65.34 Lakhs	Rs. 6.54 Lakhs
BID FACTOR	Rs. 50,000.00	
DATE AND TIME OF INSPECTION	ON/BEFORE 19-05-2026 UPTO 4 PM	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact Authorised officer, **Canara Bank, Regional Office, Mandya** during office hours on any working day.
Date : 11-04-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mandya **Canara Bank**

AXIS BANK LIMITED
Public Notice for – Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments
The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are here buy notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.
That the below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **11.05.2026 at 11.00 AM on "As in where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse Basis".** Auction will be held at.
Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Custmer Name	Loan A/C No.	Outstanding Amount (₹.)	Date of Recall Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Branch Name : Ananthnagar Bngr					
Anish	XXXXXXXXXX8875	135279.20	9-Mar-26	17.700	17.500
Branch Name : Bangarapet					
Dass D	XXXXXXXXXX4980	2384606.72	9-Mar-26	267.800	264.600
Branch Name : Basaveshwar Nagar, Bangalore					
Vivek H S	XXXXXXXXXX6208	226451.06	9-Mar-26	32.600	32.600
Branch Name : Bhattarahalli Bangalore					
Yaradevireddygari Vinod Kumar Reddy	XXXXXXXXXX5508	126758.00	9-Mar-26	19.800	19.700
Srinivasa Rao P	XXXXXXXXXX3145	103117.00	9-Mar-26	19.900	19.800
Pakalavan Muniraj	XXXXXXXXXX4346	68529.60	9-Mar-26	8.200	8.100
Branch Name : Bommasandra					
Kalluri Venkata Subba Reddy	XXXXXXXXXX6172	64585.31	9-Mar-26	8.100	8.100
Branch Name : Chamarajpet, Bangalore					
Manjunatha	XXXXXXXXXX1440	523338.00	16-May-25	108.000	106.400
Branch Name : HSR Layout, Bangalore					
Bibhishan Tandi	XXXXXXXXXX9894	80257.00	9-Mar-26	12.500	12.000
Branch Name : J P Nagar, Bangalore					
Amit Malakar	XXXXXXXXXX6150	307096.00	19-Mar-26	47.800	46.700
Branch Name : Jai Bharath Nag Ban					
G Anand	XXXXXXXXXX9013	454495.79	9-Mar-26	57.900	56.900
Branch Name : Kasthuri Nagar, Bangalore					
Sreenivas Reddy Yemme	XXXXXXXXXX6753	933213.75	23-Jan-26	231.500	172.000
Yemme Bharathi	XXXXXXXXXX3471	944251.75	27-Jan-26	202.500	163.000
Branch Name : Kolar					
Nandeshwara	XXXXXXXXXX4415	116492.83	9-Mar-26	14.800	13.300
Branch Name : Mahalakshmi Lay Bngr					
Sharanabasava	XXXXXXXXXX2683	226378.00	12-Dec-25	44.500	35.500
Vikas Sharma	XXXXXXXXXX6264	125459.69	9-Mar-26	14.300	14.300
Branch Name : Malleswaram, Bangalore					
Vani D K	XXXXXXXXXX6156	755079.76	9-Feb-26	98.500	95.000
Branch Name : Marathahalli, Bangalore					
N Manjunatha	XXXXXXXXXX5327	1259120.00	20-Mar-26	157.000	149.600
Branch Name : Nelamangala, Bangalore					
R Thenmozhi	XXXXXXXXXX3255	1094968.32	9-Mar-26	126.000	120.000
Branch Name : Peenya, Bangalore					
A Narayanaswamy .	XXXXXXXXXX9041	154426.08	9-Feb-26	28.100	26.100
Abdul Shinaf	XXXXXXXXXX4988	153995.00	9-Mar-26	40.200	30.200
Branch Name : Prashanth Nagar					
P Veena	XXXXXXXXXX8225	313382.97	23-Jan-26	50.830	45.530
Kemparaju K R	XXXXXXXXXX5747	827920.00	9-Mar-26	92.600	92.500
Rachana K P	XXXXXXXXXX2649	289242.95	9-Mar-26	40.800	39.600
Branch Name : Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Banaglore					
Swamy Br	XXXXXXXXXX9624	202233.00	9-Mar-26	24.000	23.900
Branch Name : Ramanagara Rmm					
Vinod Kumara P	XXXXXXXXXX3730	300935.00	19-Mar-26	32.100	30.600
Branch Name : Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore					
Manoj Gupta	XXXXXXXXXX0870	181959.52	9-Feb-26	23.300	23.200
Garlapati Laxman	XXXXXXXXXX6663	173499.99	19-Mar-26	18.700	18.100
Branch Name : Sarjapur Road Ban					
Vasantha G	XXXXXXXXXX1748	138096.00	9-Mar-26	58.800	56.800

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF TENDER
The Base/Reserve price will be given on the auction day/date to the tenderers on which the auction bid will be considered. The bid/offers in the prescribed tender form provided by the bank shall only be considered for bidding.
Incomplete bid form/tender are treated invalid and shall liable to be rejected.
The tender documents along with the terms and conditions shall be collected from the above branch. The tender document duly completed to be handed to the concerned branch official during working hours on **11.05.2026.** Tenders received after the due date will not be considered.
The said properties is / are offered for sale on **"As in where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse Basis".** The Bank does not undertake any responsibility to standard, purity and /or any other dues, taxes, if any, in respect of the said property.
Tenders will be opened by the Bank on the auction date in the presence of the tenderers who may choose to remain present on the day and time as said above, inter alia, for raising / revising their respective offers.
Branch Names Mentioned Above. Auction Date : 11.05.2026
Offer/tender once submitted cannot be withdrawn and bidder will liable to deposit the bid amount if there is single bid/offer for particular article/asset/ornament.
If there are more than one bid for particular article/asset/ornament, inter-se bidding shall take place amongst the bidder and highest bidder shall be declare as successful bidder.
Bidder should submit all KYC documents i.e. PAN Number, PAN Card, Adhar Card & Address proof etc. Bidder should submit valid E-mail ID & Contact Number
The Bank reserves its right to accept or reject the offer at its sole discretion.
Any disputes / differences arising out of sale of the said property/ offered for sale shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Courts / Tribunals at Mumbai only.
Place: Karnataka **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, GUNAVATHI Shetty, W/o Jayarama Shetty, R/at No.18/05,19th "A" Main Road, Muneshwara Block, Bengaluru-560026, have changed my name from Gunavathi to Gunavathi Shetty vide affidavit dated 06-03-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KANCHANA Govindan, R/at #57, Sathi Nilayam, Giddamma Layout, D Main, B.Narayanapua Extension, Bengaluru 560016 have changed the name of my minor son from Kavin Siva to Kavin Kanchana Siva vide Affidavit 09/04/2026 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N. Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE - KURNOOL.
I. P. No. 1/2026.
I. GOUTHAM SINGH ...Petitioner
-Vs-
JIGAR SHAH AND 8 OTHERS ...Respondents
7. KANTILAL RAJ PUROHIT,
Father's name not known, Aged 39 years, Shivgiri Fashion, D. No. 5/1,S.N Plaza, Mamulpet Cross, S.V Lane, Mamulpet, Bangalore-560053, Karnataka.
Cell : 92412 10186
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that, Mr. I. Gowtham Singh, S/o. Inder Singh Purohit, residing at H. No. 67/58, 2nd Floor, Bhavani Complex, Old Bus Stop, Kurnool City, Kurnool District, A.P., has filed an Insolvency Petition (I.P.) before the Hon'ble Pri. Senior Civil Judge Kurnool Court seeking to be adjudicated as an insolvent. Bangalore-560053, Karnataka State in Any person having objections or claims in respect of the said petition, shall appear before the said Court on **16-04-2026 at 10:30 A.M.** and submit their objections, if any. Failing which, the matter will be heard and decided ex parte in accordance with law.
(By order of the court)
M. L. SRINIVASA REDDY
Advocate for the Petitioner, Kurnool, A.P.
Cell No.: + 91 94402 90266

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110029
Admission Notice No. 47/2026
No. F. AIIMS/Exam.Sec./4-12(INI-SS-JULY-26)/2026 Dated: 01st April 2026
INI-SS Entrance Test for Admission in DM/M.Ch Courses for AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, SCTIMST & JIPMER for July-2026 session
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online application for **Entrance Examination** leading to admission in Post-Doctoral **[DM/M.Ch. (3 year) Courses for AIIMS New Delhi other AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, JIPMER and SCTIMST** for **July, 2026 session**.

Online Registration for application			
Courses	**Institutions**	**Opens on**	**Closes on**
DM/M.Ch.(3 year)	AIIMs - New Delhi & other AIIMS, PGIMER, NIMHANS, JIPMER and SCTIMST	**30.03.2026**	**13.04.2026 at 5:00 PM**

Important: For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)
CBC 17112/12/0005/2627

Upgraded HAL museum to reopen on Monday

Visitors can see a life-size replica of Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine and a 3D anamorphic runway featuring HAL's iconic aircraft — Prachand and Tejas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The upgraded HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum was unveiled on Friday following extensive modernisation that features immersive installations and advanced aviation exhibits. The museum will reopen to the public on Monday.

"Established in 2001, the HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum is India's first aerospace museum and one of Bengaluru's iconic landmarks. With its reimagined design and immersive exhibits, the museum has evolved beyond a display of aircraft and artefacts. It now offers a dynamic experience that brings visitors closer to the spirit of innovation, engineering excellence, and national service that defines Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. We invite the public to enjoy the new experience," said D.K. Sunil, chairman and managing director, HAL.

The upgraded HAL Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum being unveiled by D.K. Sunil, chairman and managing director, HAL. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The HAL also said that the museum showcases state-of-the-art installations, including a life-size replica of the Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine and a 3D anamorphic runway featuring the HAL's iconic aircraft- Prachand and Tejas.

Additional highlights include kinetic installations and a hologram fan display

Additional highlights include kinetic installations and a hologram fan display.

'Wings of Bharat'
It added 'Wings of Bharat', a specially curated multi-sensory show set within a hangar-like space that celebrates the HAL's contributions to the nation.

"A holobox installation introduces 'Tejasvi', a holographic avatar that presents the HAL's legacy and achievements in an interactive format," it further said.

The museum also features detailed 3D models of the HAL's flagship products spanning fixed-wing aircraft, rotary-wing platforms, civil aviation, engines, systems, and space technologies. Visitors can explore archival content and key milestones through a digital flipbook, while a Dhruv cockpit simulator offers an immersive, hands-on flying experience.

Kids' zone
There is also a children's engagement zone designed to inspire young minds.

This zone includes interactive games, flying machine builders, quizzes, art and colouring stations.

"An immersive space shuttle module offers a glimpse into space exploration, while an AR photo booth enables visitors to capture memorable moments alongside the HAL aircraft in dynamic virtual environments," the HAL said.

An ALH Mk III Maritime Role (MR) helicopter. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HAL hands over ALH Mk III (MR) helicopters to Indian Coast Guard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over four ALH Mk III Maritime Role (MR) helicopters to the Indian Coast Guard on Friday.

These deliveries are part of the nine ALH Mk III (MR) contracts signed in March 2024.

HAL has delivered 16 ALH Mk III (MR) to the Indian Coast Guard till 2022. An additional order for six more helicopters was signed in March 2026.

The ALH Mk III (MR) is the maritime variant of the indigenous Dhruv Advanced Helicopter. It is a multi-role twin-engine helicopter equipped for demanding maritime operations, including maritime surveillance, search and rescue, casualty evacuation, coastal security, law enforcement, VIP travel, troop transport, logistics, and anti-piracy.

Equipped with advanced avionics, a modern glass cockpit, and night operation capability, the ALH Mk III (MR) significantly strengthens the Indian Coast Guard's operational readiness across diverse maritime scenarios.

The Sheshadri Iyer Hydroelectric Power Station at Shivasamudram. FILE PHOTO

At 15,509 MU, State records highest-ever hydel output

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has recorded its highest-ever hydropower generation, with State-run Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) producing 15,509 million units (MU) of electricity in the 2025-26 financial year, jumping from the previous year record of 13,853 MU.

The record power generation was achieved across KPCL's hydropower network spanning multiple basins, including four stations in the Sharavati and Kali valleys, two each in the Varahi and Cauvery valleys, and one each in the Krishna and Tungabhadra river system.

Favourable factors
KPCL attributed the surge in output to a combination of favourable rainfall and improved operational efficiency.

"Even some of the oldest hydropower stations such as Shivanasamudram, Shimsha, Sharavati, and the Mahatma Gandhi Hydel Power Station at Jog Falls have delivered an impressive performance. Improved maintenance practices have played a key role in boosting generation," said Gaurav Gupta, KPCL managing director and Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department.

Sharavati and Varahi
A significant share of the generation came from the Sharavati and Varahi valleys, which together produced 8,696 MU. The Sharavati valley alone exceeded its target of 4,800 MU, generating 5,642 MU, while the Mahatma Gandhi Hydel Power Station at Jog Falls surpassed its target of 549 MU to produce 643 MU. The Varahi Hydroelectric Project recorded one of the sharpest increases, generating 1,599 MU against a target of 1,060 MU, a rise of over 50%.

Other stations also reported strong performances. The Bhadra Hydroelectric Project generated 68 MU against a target of 55 MU, Shimsha produced 66 MU against 47 MU, and the Mani Dam Hydroelectric station generated 32 MU against its 24 MU target. The Gerusoppa Hydro Electric Project produced 644 MU.

Several individual stations also achieved record outputs during the year. The Mahatma Gandhi station improved on its earlier peak of 550 MU recorded in 2021-22 to reach 643 MU, while the Varahi project crossed its previous record of 1,401 MU to generate 1,599 MU.

2 held for digital arrest scam

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Belagavi police arrested two men in Hyderabad for cheating an 81-year-old businessperson of ₹15.45 crore in a digital arrest scam. The accused have been identified as Venkadot Sarath Naik and Degawata Sripad Naik. They were arrested on April 6 and produced in court on April 7.

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I PU admissions to begin from Apr. to kick-start academic activities early

Dept. of School Education (PU) has decided to introduce AI courses to prepare students for future technology-based fields

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education (Pre-University) has decided to begin admission process for I PU from April for the upcoming academic year (2026-27) to enable academic activities to commence without delay.

The department has also decided to implement other programmes, including Lesson Based Assessment (LBA) and MCQ question bank.

Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa said that to improve the quality of PU course, 50 government high schools have been upgraded to government PU colleges and 72 new colleges have been started under the Adarsha Scheme with PCMB, PCMC (Science) and EBAC (Commerce) combinations. Special focus has been given on encouraging students in rural areas to opt for Science and Commerce streams. All necessary lab equipment, including 720 computers, have been provided to these colleges, the Minister added. "To encourage students to opt for Computer Science combination, 100 colleges were selected under the Adarsha scheme. These colleges have been provided with 1,200 computers to enable proper conduct of practical sessions. Free textbooks will also be given to students in government PU colleges to reduce financial burden and ensure equal learning opportunities," he said. The department has also decided to implement monthly syllabus plan for the PU students.

The department has also decided to implement other programmes, including Lesson Based Assessment and MCQ question bank.
FILE PHOTO

> To improve the quality of PU course, 50 government high schools have been upgraded to governmet PU colleges
>
> **MADHU BANGARAPPA**
> Minister for School Education

The syllabus will be divided month-wise to help complete the lessons on time. Blueprints, Model question papers and MCQ question bank will be made available online for the students to give them a clear idea of the exam pattern and for facing competitive exam like CET, NEET, etc., Mr. Bangarappa said.

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has already implemented the LBA for the students from classes 1 to 10 across the State. However, not it decided to extend the LBA to PU courses.

As part of skill education, the Department of School Education (Pre-University) has decided to introduce artificial intelligence (AI) courses to prepare PU students for future technology-based fields.

"Through the 'Nanna Vrithi, Nanna Ayke' programme by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, students will get career guidance. We also decided to strengthen the College Development Committees. The implemention of facial attendance system in government and aided colleges will improve monitoring of student attendance," Mr. Bangarappa said.

Dhanush M. Poojary

Mehmadayan Nadaf

Sanika Metagar

Beyond marks: How II PU toppers overcame challenges

Pratyusha Srivastav
BENGALURU

A kidney transplant, two years of dialysis, and a disrupted start to schooling did not stop Dhanush M. Poojary from Bidadi from turning his II PU year into a comeback.

The Commerce (with History) student from Government PU College, Bidadi, Poojary had seen his class 10 performance dip during his prolonged treatment between late 2019 and 2021. However, he said he carried that setback with him, using it as motivation to stay disciplined through the II PU and scored 589 out of 600. He finished his syllabus a month ahead of the exams and revised it twice in quick 15-day cycles, preparing on his own without any coaching.

Speaking with *The Hindu*, Poojary said his sister, who is pursuing an MBA, helped him with Accountancy, while his teachers and parents supported him through the year. His father runs a small tea shop and his mother is a homemaker. Apart from studies, Poojary said he spent time between studies and watching anime and drawing.

He plans to pursue an MBA.

After father's death

In Jamkhandi, Mehmadayan Nadaf prepared for his exams in a household still adjusting to his father's death three years ago. Nadaf said his inspiration was his elder brother who now supports the family, working as a nursing assistant while continuing his own studies.

A student of BHS Arts and TGP SC PU College, he relied on self-study, and spent his time at a library near his house to study without distractions, he said. "I focused on practising previous years' question papers, studying toppers' answer sheets, and improving writing and presentation," he said, adding that while playing cricket is his favourite hobby. But in order to stay focused, Nadaf gave up playing the sport for a month before the exam. "College and self-study was enough for me," he said. Nadaf scored 595 in the Arts stream, securing second rank in the State, and plans to pursue BA in Political Science while preparing for the UPSC.

Long hours

For Sanika Metagar in Vijayapura, the challenge was financial. The daughter of daily wage workers earning around ₹250-₹400 a day, she studied without coaching while staying in a hostel. Her routine was built around long hours, waking up at 4 a.m. to study, attending college, and continuing again late into the night.

Her teachers, she said, guided her, but most of the preparation was self-driven. She had scored 92% in class 10 and maintained that consistency in the II PU. "When I felt stressed about exams, my parents were always my biggest support," she said. She scored 595 in the Arts stream, securing first rank in her district and second in the State. She now aims to prepare for the UPSC.

Teen found dead after II PU results

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 17-year-old girl died by suicide at home in north Bengaluru's Hebbal minutes after the second pre-university examination results were announced on Thursday, the police said.

The deceased has been identified as Tanushree, a resident of Manorayanapalya near Kanakanagar in Hebbal. The incident unfolded between 3.30 p.m. and 4 p.m., according to the police. It came to light when Tanushree's friend went to her house to check on her after her mobile phone was switched off.

A police official told *The Hindu* that they suspect the deceased was disturbed by the results, as she had not passed in a few subjects, and took the extreme step.

According to the officer, Tanushree had made distress calls to her friends before the results were announced and expressed fear of failing. One of her friends had even invited her home to be with her while checking the results, and Tanushree had agreed but did not go. "After the results were out, the friend called Tanushree, but the latter's phone was switched off. Alarmed by the situation, she called another friend who lived near Tanushree's house and asked her to check on her," the officer said.

When the second friend reached Tanushree's house, she found the door locked from inside and received no response. She immediately called her father to the spot, and they broke open the door to find Tanushree dead, according to the officer.

She was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, and doctors declared her brought dead.

Case registered

The Hebbal police have registered an Unnatural Death Report and are investigating further. "We did not find any death note at the scene, but her hall ticket was on the bed," the officer said.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

KREIS colleges record pass percentage of 97.22 in II PU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residential pre-university colleges run by the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) under the Social Welfare Department have recorded a pass percentage of 97.22 in this year's II PUC examinations.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa said that this marks an increase of 5.58 percentage points compared to last year's 91.64%. "A total of 5,103 students appeared for the II PU examination from residential PU colleges run by KREIS, and a total of 4,961 students have passed," he said at a press conference on Friday.

Outstanding student

Ankit Bhimappa Karatagi, a student of Morarji Desai Science Pre-University Residential College at Nidasosi in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi, has emerged as the second topper in the State, with an achievement of 598 out 600 marks in the Science stream.

He got the highest marks among students in government PU colleges.

H.C. Mahadevappa

"He scored 98 out of 100 in English and got full marks in all other subjects. Ankit will be felicitated with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh on April 14, which is Ambedkar Jayanti," the Minister said.

"Residential schools were started on the model of Jawahar Navodaya Residential Schools to provide free and quality education to rural talents from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes of the State, and education is being imparted in English medium. At present, 874 residential schools/colleges, including 539 Scheduled Caste, 156 Scheduled Tribe, and 179 Backward Classes, are imparting education to 2,15,460 students across the State," he stated. The Minister further said that combined residential PU colleges for the Science stream have been set up with the aim of getting more rural students to enrol in professional courses like medicine, engineering, and so on. In 2025-26, students from 72 colleges appeared for the II PUC examination.

The Minister said that students from residential schools have achieved quality results this year. "A total of 2,321 students have passed with distinction, 2,487 with first class, 160 with second class, and 14 with third class," he informed.

"In order to ensure that students studying in residential colleges under the KREIS get admission in professional courses like medicine and engineering etc. in large numbers, arrangements were made to provide coaching for JEE/NEET/K-CET entrance exams in all 72 residential colleges in the year 2025-26. A total of 106 students of the KREIS have qualified in the JEE (mains) session-1 this year," explained the Minister.

Govt. issues draft notification for grading third language subjects in SSLC exam, invites objections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government, which had announced its decision to award grades instead of marks for third language subjects, including Hindi, Kannada and others in the SSLC examination, has issued a draft notification on Friday and has invited objections.

Allotment of grades

Accordingly, in the draft notification, grades A, B, and C will be awarded based on the marks obtained in third Language and National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) subjects. Those scoring between 80% and 100% will be awarded 'Grade-A', marks between 50% and 79% will be given 'Grade-B', and up to 49% 'Grade-C'.

The grades for third Language and NSQF will be mentioned in the SSLC marks card as additional subjects and will not be considered for pass/fail status. This system will come into effect from the 2025-26 SSLC examination results.

Earlier, the SSLC exam was conducted for a maximum of 625 marks, but hereafter it will be conducted for a maximum of 525 marks, as recently announced by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa.

To be declared as passed, candidates must secure at least 33% marks in both internal assessment and external examination combined in the other subjects.

Within seven days

Any objections or suggestions regarding this draft notification may be submitted within seven days to the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Room No. 663, 6th Floor, 2nd Gate, Multi-Storied Building, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 11		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:32
RISE	01:31	SET 13:08
SUNDAY, APR. 12		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	02:14	SET 14:00
MONDAY, APR. 13		
RISE	06:08	SET 18:32
RISE	02:56	SET 14:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	20
Bengaluru	35	25

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Bengaluru Tomorrow
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THE HINDU
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GBA exempts teachers, lecturers from Census work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

TH IMPACT

Officers/staff of Group-B, Group-C of the Department of School Education and Literacy have been assigned for the Census-2027 work

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday issued an order exempting teachers of government schools and lecturers of government Pre-University (PU) Colleges from Census-2027 work.

Officers/staff of Group-B and Group-C of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) have been assigned for the Census work.

Request

Principal Secretary of the DSEL had requested M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the GBA, to exempt teachers and lecturers assigned for re-evaluation and other examination activities and officers/employees of the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board from the Census work. They had argued that it was difficult to evaluate answer sheets, work as enumerators and conduct online special classes simultaneously with the Census work.

The Hindu reported this on April 4. Now, the GBA Chief Commissioner has approved the request.

60-day age relaxation for class 1 admissions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Limited to the 2026-27 academic year, the State government has issued an order to consider children for Class 1 admission by providing a relaxation of up to 60 days from June 1 while calculating the age.

With this, children whose birthdays fall within 60 days after June 1 (Until July 30) are now eligible for admission to Class 1.

Considering the requests submitted by parents, the government has given this special opportunity under Section 20 of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983. Instructions have also been issued to make necessary changes in the Student Achievement Tracking System software to implement this order.

There is total consensus among services on theatre commands: Chief of Defence Staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said that there is total consensus on integrated theatre commands among the three services.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the final day of the Ran Samvad 2026, General Chauhan said that the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are aligned on the core idea of separating force generation from force application.

"The whole idea of creating these theatre commands, conceptually, is separating force generation from force application. Till now, both these were the responsibilities of the service chief," General Chauhan said. He said that the theatre commands will be responsible for force application or the operational aspects while the service chiefs will look after the functions of 'Raise, Train and Sustain'.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan presenting a certificate of merit to Air Commodore M.P.S. Virk during the Ran Samwad 2026, in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

"Warfare is becoming very complex, and equally complex is force generation. So, if we separate the two, it will become efficient in both these possibilities. So, theatre commands will be responsible for application of force, and the service chiefs will be responsible for force generation tasks, that is, Raise, Train and Sustain," he said.

"There is total consensus ... it's a big thing because in some manner, the authority of the service chief gets diluted the moment you do this, but they are willing to do it for the larger good of India," he added. On the manifestation of the integrated theatre commands, he said that manifestation comprises many things, including where they should be located, how they should be located, what their area of responsibility is, how they should be raised, the sequence of raising, and so on.

"There are hundreds of questions connected to these. For instance, when it comes to the sequence of raising and how they should be raised, there are some issues on which there is still some kind of indifference. But I think, as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and the CDS, these issues can be resolved while we are implementing it. And whatever we do or whatever we agree to is not really set in stone. It is amenable to change," he said.

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India's green factory gap

As units adopt solar power and resource-efficient systems, the absence of a unified certification limits global recognition

Dhruv Sharma

When a Japanese multinational technology company announces that its factory in Osaka runs on floating solar panels on an adjacent reservoir, global sustainability indices take note. But when a California-based EV battery manufacturer's auto component plant in Pune converts entirely to rooftop solar system, or the Panipat textile cluster in Haryana begins its nascent adoption of renewables amid its push towards a low-carbon circular economy, it is often viewed simply as operational efficiency.

In a world where supply chains are increasingly carbon-accounted, capital flows are ESG-sensitive and disclosures influence valuation, the ability to certify, standardise and credibly communicate green-manufacturing capability will determine competitiveness.

As the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, accounting for approximately 7%-8% of global emissions as reported by Climate Change Tracker, India is also one of the fastest-growing manufacturing economies. This creates a structural dual mandate, which is to industrialise at scale while reducing emissions intensity in a disciplined and structured manner.

Meeting this mandate requires a framework that reflects Indian realities, including energy tariffs that vary significantly across states.

India's manufacturing sectors are demonstrating measurable commitment. Rooftop solar adoption across manufacturing clusters has grown and circular economy practices, including material recycling and waste heat recovery, are being adopted widely.

Yet, unlike developed markets where a single sustainability benchmark often enjoys global recognition and investor confidence, India's green factory certification remains distributed across multiple frameworks.

A redefined Indian green factory framework must be assessed not only by environmental metrics, but also by its capacity to attract sustainable capital, enhance export competitiveness, mitigate long-term energy risk, and strengthen climate resilience. In today's context, sustainability is inseparable from strategic positioning.

The country's industrial policymakers must come together to establish a unified, India-specific green factory rating system. A framework that reflects its unique landscape and demands in terms of scale, its diversity and its ambition. Because an Indian green factory does not have to look like the one in Denmark to be called 'green' to earn global respect. This nation must define green manufacturing on its own terms.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Jupiter International Limited.

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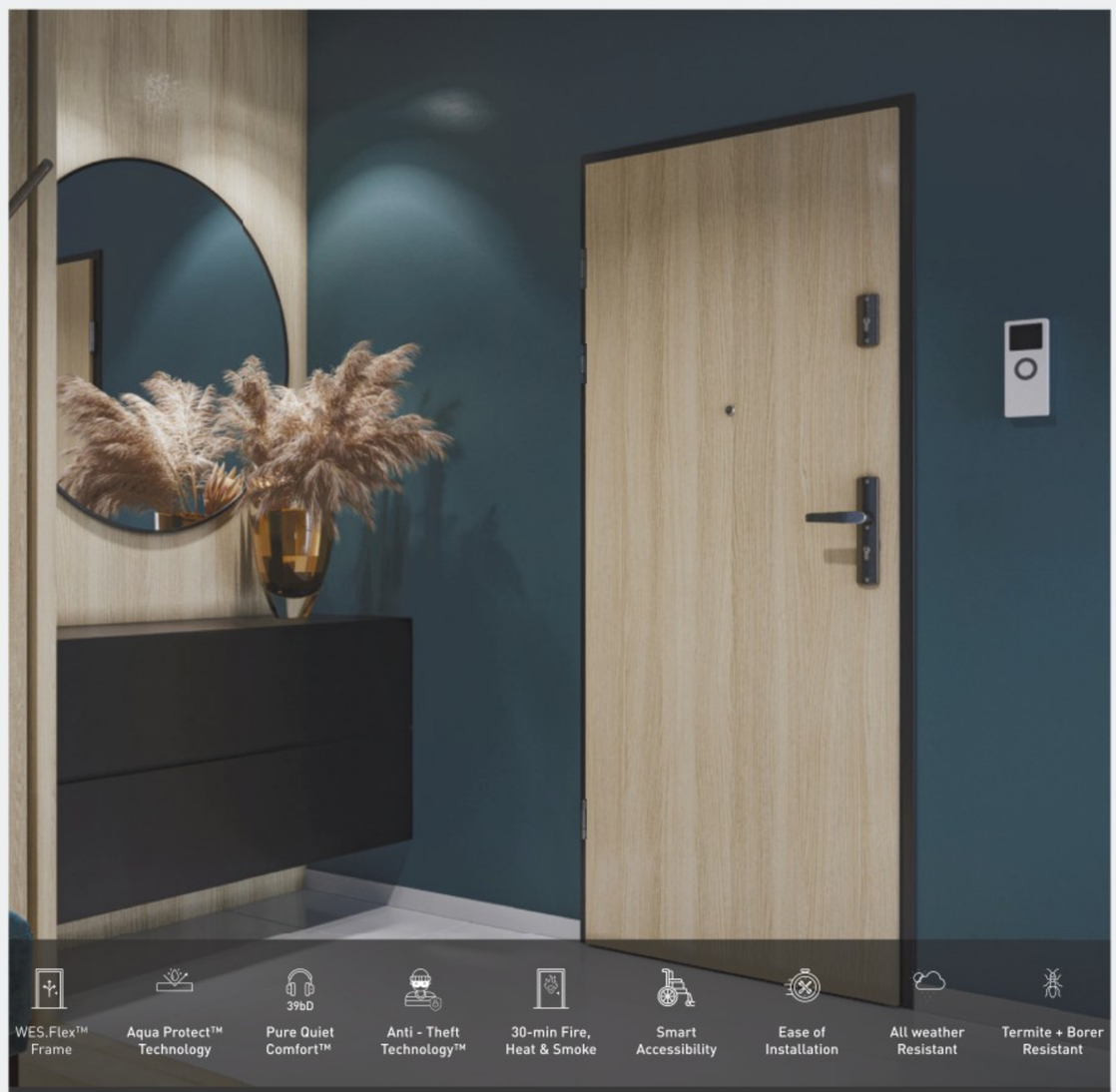

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BG-BGE

15-year-old missing girl from Kerala found dead near Chikkamagaluru waterfall

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The 15-year-old girl from Palakkad in Kerala, who had gone missing since Tuesday evening near Manikyadhara Falls in Chikkamagaluru district of Karnataka, was found dead on Friday, leaving the teenager's family devastated.

The mortal remains of Sreenanda was found about 500 metres below the watchtower, from where the visitors view the waterfalls. The body was initially spotted on drone camera, and later, the search team reached the spot.

The police had launched a massive search operation for the girl who was on a visit to the tourist place along with 40 members of her family. The Chikkamagaluru Rural police had registered a missing case based on the statement of her parents. The police had launched a search with the support of Forest Department officials, and used thermal drones.

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner N.M. Nagaraj, who visited the spot after the girl's body was found, told *The Hindu* that the body was about 500 metres or 2,000 feet below the place where the tourists view the waterfalls. "There are metal grills covering the area to prevent people from falling into the gorge. However, it is to be investigated how the incident happened," he said.

Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Dayama said that the body had been traced, and the clothes she was wearing on the day she went missing were intact. "The post-mortem and other procedures will follow," he said. The body was taken to the district hospital in Chikkamagaluru for a post-mortem on Friday evening.

The recovery of the girl's body left her family shattered. Her parents and close relatives, who had been waiting since Tuesday evening, hoping that the 15-year-old was safe, were devastated by the news. They identified her through the video clips and photos of the body shown on mobile phones, based on the dress she was wearing.

A drone was deployed to search for the missing teenager, near Manikyadhara Falls in Chikkamagaluru district. PTI

Mr. Nagaraj told the media, "We were all hoping that she would return safe. Our team found her body deep down near the Manikyadhara."

However, family members suspect that she may have been drugged and kidnapped. The girl's mother, Rohini, speaking to the media stated that it was "unlikely" that she accidentally fell to her death.

"Someone must have noticed her and followed our group and kidnapped her while she was alone," she told the media.

The girl's uncle, Sasikumar, told reporters in Palakkad – quoting his relatives at the search spot – that the body showed scarce signs of decomposition, suggesting foul play. He said the family members have petitioned the Chikkamagaluru DC for a detailed investigation.

Three-day search
For the last three days, the local police, forest officials, members from the local adventure club and a team of State Disaster Response Force had joined in the efforts to look for the teenager.

Mr. Nagaraj said more than 100 people were involved in the search. "The police began combing soon after learning about the incident on April 7 evening.

Local people, particularly enthusiastic adventurers, Forest Department staff and the SDRF team joined in the efforts. They searched for the girl day and night," he stated. He further added that the police would investigate the case and find out the cause of the death.

The incident also evoked the recent successful four-day search for Sharanya, a resident of Palakkad and an IT professional working in Kochi, who went missing in the forests of Kodagu for four days. However, Sharanya, a seasoned trekker accustomed to hiking alone in the forests, remained safe until forest enforcers located her.

(With inputs from Kerala Bureau)

Safety beefed up

Following the incident, the district administration will take additional steps to ensure safety of the tourists at the place. "Already safety measures are in place. If we place grills or barricades, that means nobody should cross it. However, some enthusiastic tourists try to cross them, probably to have a better view. We will put more signboards cautioning tourists and also depute tourist-mitras to handle the tourists," the Deputy Commissioner said.

Manikyadhara Falls

Manikyadhara is a popular tourist destination in Chikkamagaluru in a terrain marked by cliffs and dense forest. After travelling by road, visitors have to climb down close to 200 steps to witness a spectacular view of the waterfalls. It is believed that the place was called 'Manikyadhara' — a stream of pearls — because the water droplets, when cascading from a height of 30 feet, look like gleaming pearls against the sunlight.

MLC: Some leaders conspired to ensure Cong. defeat in bypolls

Polling percentage less than that of 2023 Assembly elections; Bagalkot records 68.61%, Davangere South 68.55%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI/BELAGAVI

A day after polling to the the byelections in two constituencies in Karnataka, senior Congress leader and Government Chief Whip in the Legislative Council Saleem Ahmed on Friday alleged that some minority leaders conspired to ensure defeat of the party's candidate, Samarth, in the Davangere South Assembly constituency.

However, he asserted that the minority community as a whole supported the Congress, and expressed confidence that the party would win both Davangere South and Bagalkot seats. He said the decision on fielding Mr. Samarth was made in the presence of minority leaders.

During the run-up to the campaign, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan had largely stayed away and focused on the Assembly election campaign in Kerala. Meanwhile, Sadiq Pailwan, who had rebelled against the party nominee, withdrew from the contest following discussions with senior leaders.

Speaking to reporters here at the party office, Mr. Ahmed claimed that he, along with MLA Rizwan Arshad, managed the situation and worked to secure more votes for the Congress candidate in the Davangere South segment.

He added that State Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala,

Saleem Ahmed

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were aware of the alleged conspiracy by certain minority leaders within the party.

Dip in turnout
Meanwhile, the final data provided by the Election Commission of India shows that both Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies have registered less polling percentage in the byelections held on Thursday compared to the Assembly elections in 2023.

Bagalkot recorded a polling percentage of 68.61% against 69.46% in 2023 and Davangere South Assembly segment recorded 68.55% against 69.48% in 2023. While Bagalkot's polling percentage is down by 0.8 percentage points, that of Davangere South is down by 0.93 percentage points.

In Bagalkot, 1,78,271 of the total 2,59,797 voters exercised their franchise on Thursday.

Rural better turnout
In Bagalkot, rural areas witnessed better polling than urban areas. While 1,06,900 of the 1,43,270 voters (74. 61 %) in rural areas exercised their franchise, 71,371 of the 1,16,527 voters (61. 24%) in urban areas cast their votes. The constituency had 175 booths in rural areas and 142 booths in urban areas.

The highest voting was recorded in Nagasamangi village in rural Bagalkot, with 92.62%. The lowest was in Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan function hall in Bagalkot city with just 30.5%.

In Davangere South, 78,290 male voters of 1,13,339, 79,823 out of 1,17,690 female voters and 18 of the 43 voters of third gender exercised their franchise on Thursday taking the total tally of voters exercising their franchise to 1,58,131 (68.55%) out of the total voters of 2,31,072.

Governor Gehlot gives assent to 'honour killing' Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has given his assent to the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava, Eva Nammava) Bill, 2026, which has now become an Act and come into force.

The Bill seeks to curb so-called "honour killings" and violence arising from caste-based objections to inter-caste marriages. It was passed during the recent Budget session of the State legislature.

The Act aims to address persistent caste-based discrimination in Karnataka, which often manifests in brutal forms of violence.

The Karnataka Municipalities And Certain Other Law (Amendment) Act, 2026, that seeks to fix fee on advertisements in urban local bodies covered under Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964, and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, earlier passed by the Legislature and received assent from the Governor, has also been notified.

On motor vehicles
The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 2026, that introduces revised tax structures across various categories of vehicles, has also been notified. The Act, passed recently by the Karnataka Legislature, was published in the Karnataka Gazette following the Governor's approval on April 9 .

The legislation amends provisions of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957, with key changes include updated lifetime tax rates for private vehicles based on cost brackets, new tax provisions for electric vehicles, and revised taxation for commercial vehicles such as contract carriages, luxury buses, and sleeper coaches.

The other legislation notified is The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) (Amendment) Act, 2026 to regulate transfers of teachers.

'No discussion with BJP yet on alliance for local body polls'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that there has been no discussion yet on contesting the local body elections in an alliance, Youth Janata Dal (Secular) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Friday said that discussions would take place after the polls are announced.

"The senior leaders in both parties (JD -S and BJP) will decide whether to go to polls together or not. We will take up activities to strengthen our party," Mr. Nikhil told presspersons here. "We went in an alliance in Parliamentary polls. Even now, we will have a cordial arrangement with State and Central leaders of the BJP."

Nikhil Kumaraswamy

Mr. Nikhil, who reviewed the arrangement for the JD(S) convention to mark the silver jubilee of the party, said that the convention in Bengaluru to be held on Saturday will be the first of the eight conventions planned to be held across the State.

"The convention is being held to strengthen the party ahead of GBA elections, and it will instil enthusiasm among the leaders and new leaders will emerge," he said.

Prime Minister for Mandya on April 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Karnataka on April 15 to inaugurate Sriguru Bhyravykya Mandira, the memorial of the late seer of Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt, Balagangadharanatha Swami, according to mutt sources.

The memorial is located near the Kalabhyraveshwara temple on the mutt premises in Adichunchanagiri of Nagamangala Taluk in Mandya district.

The memorial comprises the tomb of Sri Balagangadharanatha Swami, who is credited with developing the mutt and building hundreds of educational institutions. The seer passed away on January 13, 2013 at the age of 67 years. The Prime Minister will participate in pooja at Kalabhyraveswara Temple located at the mutt before inaugurating the memorial. Later he would address the devotees. The entire programme would last for about 1.15 hours.

Ex-president of Rashtrotthana Parishat dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

S.R. Ramaswamy, the immediate past president of the Rashtrotthana Parishat and honorary editor of Rashtrotthana Sahitya, passed away here on Friday. He was 88. Ramaswamy had a hold on several languages, including Kannada, Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. He was a close associate of the late D.V. Gundappa.

Collection of blood sample without lawful arrest illegal: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday has ruled that blood sample of an accused in a criminal case cannot be collected without lawful arrest under Section 51 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and blood sample collected without lawful arrest is unsustainable in law.

"A lawful arrest necessitates strict compliance with statutory safeguards, including communication of the grounds of arrest, recording of reasons and adherence to all mandatory procedural requirements. Where a blood sample is produced pursuant to an illegal arrest, the resulting medical and forensic report stands vitiated and cannot be relied upon by the prosecution," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while allowing the petition, filed by a 28-year-old woman accused of cocaine consumption at a Devanahalli rave party in May 2025, and quashing the criminal proceedings against her.

Rejecting the claim of the police that she was arrested and released on the same day after collection of blood sample and urine samples, the court said that "so-called arrest of the petitioner is, on the face of it, unsustainable in law."

The court pointed out that there was no material to demonstrate that the arresting officer recorded any reasonable suspicion or credible information linking the petitioner to a cognisable offence besides a conspicuous absence of any recorded reasons, justifying the arrest. Equally, there is no evidence that the ground of arrest were even communicated to the petitioner. None of the procedural or substantive safeguards, that lend legitimacy to an arrest, have been observed, the court said.

Once the arrest is unlawful, "the collection of petitioner's blood sample far from being a lawful investigative step, stands vitiated as an act, in clear transgression of statutory mandate", the court said, while terming such medical examination and collection of blood sample unsustainable in law.

"The blood sample being a derivative of that illegality stands tainted and the medical report founded upon the tainted sample, cannot be accorded any evidentiary value. In the absence of a legally obtained forensic report, it is wholly inconceivable as to how the petitioner can be compelled to undergo the rigours and ordeal of a criminal trial," the court said, while stating that continuation of criminal proceedings against her in such a scenario would become abuse of process of law.

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011. Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/Sup/Car rental/339/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11, invites tender from the eligible vehicle owners/agencies through the e-procurement portal of GOK for the following:-
Providing Vehicle Services on Outsourcing Basis for Official Government Work for a period of One Year - 2 Nos. (Yellow Board AC Vehicle-Model:2024 or later Swift Dzire/Ertiga/Ciaz/ Innova)
(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **11.04.2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **11.05.2026** upto **4:00** PM. (2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Director,
DIPR/CP/138/CCL/2026-27 **Tender Inviting Authority**

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender /2025-26 /47 Date: 09-04-2026
E-Procurement Tender Notification
Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2, 3
(One Cover & Two Cover System)
Tenders are invited for the following 6 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2, 3, Rules from eligible PWD contractors through e-Procurement Portal Under H/A: 2025-26 CMIDP Grant, 2024-25 5054 Flood Damage Grant, of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through https://eproc. karnataka. gov.in The work Indent details are as shown below:
Indent Nos : 24860, 24858, 24856, 23927/CALL-2, 23897/ CALL-2, 26070, 25788, 25787
The details of Tender Fees and EMD : Tender Fees and correspondence EMD details with respect to work indent details to be seen as per E-Procurement portal. (Minimum Amount : **6.70** Lakhs) (Maximum Amount : **75.47** Lakhs)
Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **10-04-2026** to **24-04-2026** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **27-04-2026** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid : **28-04-2026** at 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/12/2026-27 **Gadag**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Vakeesa Kalanidhi
SRI. KI.VA. JAGANNATHAN
11.04.1906

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to : www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

INBRIEF

HC grants anticipatory bail to Pawan Khera in Assam case

Telangana High Court on Friday granted temporary anticipatory bail for one week to the senior Congress leader Pawan Khera in a case registered against him by the Assam Police over his allegations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife. Mr. Khera on April 5 alleged that Mr. Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in his election affidavit for the recent Assembly polls. PTI

Filmmaker Ranjith gets bail in sexual harassment case

Ranjith, filmmaker and former chairperson of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, was granted bail under stringent conditions by the Ernakulam Judicial First Class Magistrate Court on Friday in a sexual harassment case.

Mr. Ranjith, was arrested and lodged at the Ernakulam sub-jail. The court directed him to surrender his passport, remain within Ernakulam district, and refrain from entering Fort Kochi, where the alleged offence took place during a film shoot.

Software engineer from A.P. murdered in Haryana

A software engineer B. Rishikesh of Bethavolu village in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in Haryana. His body was found on the premises of a private company where he had been working for the past few days. The Haryana police informed the Gudivada police about the death, who in turn intimated the victim's family members on Friday. The police are investigating the time of the murder and the possible motive.

Gaganyaan mission: ISRO completes second Integrated Air Drop Test in Sriharikota

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh announced the accomplishment of the IADT-02 in a post on X

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on April 10 completed the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

In this test, a simulated Crew Module (the capsule in which astronauts sit during a human flight during re-entry and landing), was lifted by an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter to an altitude of about 3 km and released over a designated drop zone in the sea, near the Sriharikota coast. The simulated Crew Module weighes about 5.7 tonnes, that is equivalent to the mass of the Crew Module in the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1).

Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02). ANI

ISRO said that 10 parachutes of four types were deployed in a precise sequence during the descent of the Crew Module, gradually reducing the velocity for safe touchdown.

"Subsequently, the simulated Crew Module was successfully recovered in co-ordination with the Indian Navy. The IADT-02 test validated the parachute-based deceleration systems in the Crew Module," ISRO stated.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh announced the accomplishment of the IADT-02 in a post on X.

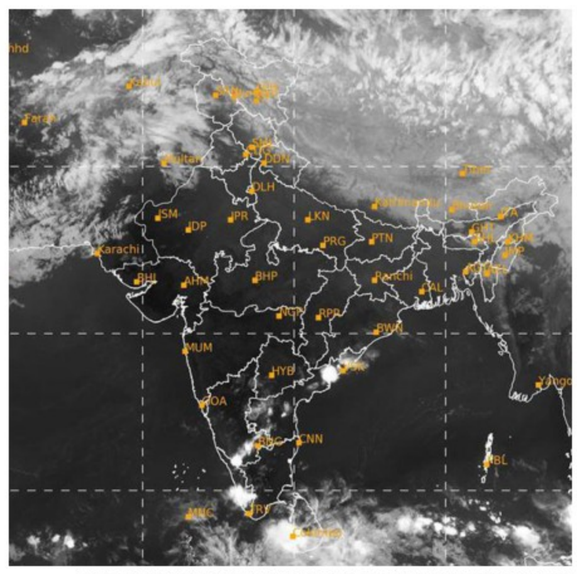
"Congratulations #ISRO for the successful accomplishment of Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for #Gaganyaan, India's first Human Space flight scheduled next year. The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Station Sriharikota. This marks an important milestone towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan mission," the Minister posted.

"This test marks another significant step towards the readiness for the Gaganyaan G1 Mission, with active support and participation from the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)," ISRO said.

On August 24,2025, ISRO accomplished first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for Gaganyaan mission in Sriharikota.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.5	32.0	19.7	Kozhikode	—	35.8	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	38.4	25.0	Kurnool	—	41.4	28.8
Aizawl	11.8	30.3	15.0	Lucknow	—	32.1	17.0
Allahabad	—	35.4	18.0	Madurai	—	39.0	26.7
Bengaluru	—	35.4	24.4	Mangaluru	—	33.9	24.9
Bhopal	—	34.6	18.4	Mumbai	—	33.9	22.2
Bhubaneswar	10	35.1	24.2	Mysuru	—	36.2	20.8
Chandigarh	—	29.7	12.4	New Delhi	—	32.8	16.3
Chennai	—	36.3	28.2	Patna	—	33.3	21.7
Coimbatore	—	38.4	25.0	Port Blair	—	32.2	25.2
Dehradun	—	28.8	12.4	Puducherry	—	35.0	27.8
Gangtok	5	16.0	9.0	Pune	—	38.1	22.4
Goa	—	35.4	24.4	Raipur	—	37.4	24.7
Guwahati	5	28.8	19.2	Ranchi	—	30.3	18.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	—	18.0	13.0
Hyderabad	—	38.6	25.0	Shimla	14	21.6	7.0
Imphal	4.4	24.6	10.6	Srinagar	—	20.2	4.6
Jaipur	—	33.0	21.2	Thiruvananthapuram	2	36.2	25.9
Kochi	—	32.4	27.2	Tiruchi	—	38.7	27.0
Kohima	11	15.2	11.6	Vijayawada	—	39.4	27.6
Kolkata	8	33.4	21.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	105	92	56	110	203	
Bengaluru	23	29	26	56	119	
Chennai	16	10	66	29	72	
Delhi	26	68	45	175	240	
Hyderabad	19	33	21	64	81	
Kolkata	7	73	34	58	58	
Lucknow	9	28	45	77	104	
Mumbai	3	35	35	65	174	
Pune	34	56	44	70	123	
Visakhapatnam	30	58	18	52	103	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 313 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kohima, Nagaland recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

42 Maoists lay down arms in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A total of 42 cadres of the banned CPI (Maoist), including senior members of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and the Telangana State Committee, surrendered before the Telangana police on Friday, handing over 36 firearms, two country-made grenades and 800 grams of gold.

Amongst the total who surrendered, 21 belonged to the PLGA battalion, 11 to the Telangana State Committee and 10 to the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee.

The arms included AK-47 rifles, SLRs, INSAS rifles, .303 rifles, a 9 mm sten gun and more.

BJP candidates lash out at clergy in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Kerala BJP vice-president Shone George and his father P.C. George, both contestants in the recent Assembly polls, lashed out at the clergy for creating a controversy over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) [FCRA] Amendment Bill, 2026 in the lead-up to the Assembly election. Mr. Shone George alleged that the Catholic Church-run daily, *Deepika*, had campaigned against the BJP. "If the Church's stance is that there is no need for the BJP, then the party will take the same stand." The statement indicates that the FCRA Bill scuttled BJP's plans to attract Christian voters.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block,
Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010.

No:EE/SD/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer (Special Division), BWCC, Bengaluru invites bids for the following services from reputed Service Provider for the below service.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Doctors & Paramedical Staffs to Referral Hospitals & Maternity Homes of BWCC on Outsourced Basis for a Period of 11 Months. **Estimate Amount in ₹ (Inclusive Service Charge) : ₹ 2,50,28,471/-, EMD Amount in ₹: 3,75,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Documents from: **13.04.2026, (2)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on **16.04.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading tenders on : **27.04.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid on : **28.04.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid on : **29.04.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if possible).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Room No.09, Ground Floor,
Annex Building-3, Greater Bengaluru Authority Office Premises,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BCCC/EE/TEC/Tend/05/2025-26 Date: 10-04-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER - (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for Appointing eligible reputed Service Providers for the Service detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Service
1	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force Team for Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) Control Room. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 300.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining as Specified in Bid Document).**

Calendar of Events: 1) The RFP Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-04-2026 onwards. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender Queries: **18-04-2026 upto 15.00 Hours through KPP Portal Only. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **20-04-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1, 18th Floor, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Public Utility Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru - 560001. 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **24-04-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **27-04-2026 at 11.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE II ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT SHIVAMOGGA

R.A. No. 84 / 2025 :
Appellant: D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri. Shivananda C & Others

R. A. No. 85 / 2025 :
Appellant: D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri. Hanumantappa & Others

R. A. No. 86 / 2025 :
Appellant: D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri Khadar Iliyas Khan & others

R. A. No. 87 / 2025 :
Appellant : D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Smt. Anitha Basavarajaiah & others

R. A. No. 88 / 2025 :
Appellant : D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri Nagaraj S. & others

R. A. No. 89 / 2025 :
Appellant : D B Rudregowda
V / s
Respondent: Sri. Megharaj D & others

Respondent 2.

JBJ City Developers Karnataka Private Limited,

A Company registered under the provision of Companies act 1956, No.37 & 38, First Floor, 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bangalore, Represented by its Director Mr. Justin Devadoss @ David.

PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the above-named appellant D B Rudregowda, S/o Basavanyappa has filed above appeal challenging the judgment and decree passed by Prl. Civil Judge at Shivamogga in **O. S. No. 209/ 2017, O. S. No.210 / 2017, O. S. No. 211 / 2017, O. S. No.212 / 2017, O. S. No. 213 / 2017 and O. S. No. 214 / 2017 dated: 03.05.2025.** As such, the appellant filed an application seeking the amendment of pledging and reliefs. You have arrayed as respondent No. 2. Therefore, you are noticed to appear before the Hon'ble Court on 25. 04. 2026 at 11.00 A.M to answer to the same failing which the above appeal will be decided in your absence ex-parte.

By order of the court
Sd/- Shirasthedar
In the Court of the Hon'ble
II Addl. Senior Civil Judge,
at Shivamogga.
Advocate for appellant :
G O Kumarswamy,
Advocate,
Shivamogga.
Place : Shivamogga
Date : 06.04.2026

ಡಾ. ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in

Tender No: BCU/2026-27/IND0026 **Date: 09-04-2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only)

1) Name of the Work: **Procurement of required Furniture to all the Departments at Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Central College Campus, Bengaluru. 2)** EMD: **Rs. 10,00,000/-. 3)** Last Date for Queries: **18-04-2026 upto 16.30 Hours. 4)** Pre Bid Meeting Date and Place: **22-04-2026 at 15.30 Hours. Registrar's Office, Administrative Block, Central College Campus, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru. 5)** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **04-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: **05-05-2026 at 16.30 Hours.**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-Procurement Portal.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

DIPR/CP/141/Adverto/2026-27

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN-U40101KA2009PLC049582

No.:KPCL/2026-27/AUCTION138 **Date:04.04.2026**

SHORT TERM AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

RPCL iinvites auction through GOK e-procurement platform **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Under 'Auction' category from reputed bidders for the following Mill Reject Waste Coal Sale process:

Auction Title: Sale Of Mill Reject Waste Coal (MRWC) For A Period Of Two Years Excluding Monsoon Period.

Quantity of Mill Reject Waste Coal put to Auction: **1,11,000 MT [while 10% reserved for SSI units].** Amount put to Auction: **Rs. 8,80,23,000/-** EMD : **Rs.13,20,345/-** Date and Time to confirm participation of Interest In Auction [Last date for Documents submission]:**16-04-2026 14:30 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the Executive Engineer (M-2), RPCL, Yermarus Thermal Power Station, Yermarus 684134, Dist. Raichur, Cell: +91-8277502840. E-mail: eechpmytoskpcl@karnataka.gov.in / eechprpcl@gmail.com

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sir C.V. Ramannagar Division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation,
12th Main Road, 8th Cross, Indiranagara, Bengaluru-38

No.: EE/CVR/TENDER-01/Corrigendum-1/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

CORRIGENDUM - 01

Sub.: Regarding the announcement of postponed dates for the tender process.

Ref.: Tender Notification No.: EE/CVR/TEND/01/2026-27, Date: 08.04.2026

The tender invited by C.V. Ramannagar Division as per reference (1) for a total of 02 works through e-procurement. Due to Technical reasons the scheduled dates have been postponed.

The postponed dates for the said tender are as follows: (1) Tender forms should be submitted through e-Procurement website on **18.04.2026** upto **4:00 P.M. (2)** Technical bids of tenders will be opened on e-Procurement on **21.04.2026** at **4:30 P.M.** Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours and can also be obtained from the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sir C.V. Raman Nagar Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

61st Edition of the Asia Jewels Show 2026

One of South India's most prestigious jewellery exhibitions The Asia Jewels Show 2026 – has officially begun today, April 10, 2026, at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru in Bengaluru. The exhibition runs for 3 days (April 10-13), open daily from 10:30 AM to 8 PM. Now in its 61st edition, the show brings together top jewellers from across India, showcasing exclusive collections in gold, diamond, platinum, traditional, bridal, antique, silver, and lab-grown diamond jewellery. The grand launch was attended by celebrities including Pragya Nagra, Fasiha Nauman, and Sharanya Shetty. Organizers highlighted that the event has been a long-standing part of Bengaluru's luxury shopping culture. Overall, it's a high-end, niche jewellery fair – perfect for wedding shopping and festive purchases, offering a wide range of premium designs under one roof.

St. John's Research Institute (SJRI) in collaboration with the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR), Berghofer in Brisbane, Australia

St. John's Research Institute has partnered with QIMR Berghofer under the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund to advance research in virus-specific T-cell (VST) immunotherapy. Funded in India by the Department of Biotechnology, the project aims to adapt these therapies for Indian patients. The Indian research team is led by Alok Srivastava and Annapurna Vyakarnam, collaborating with Rajiv Khanna in Australia. The initiative seeks to improve transplant outcomes, expand access to advanced immunotherapies, and boost biotechnology innovation in India while also benefiting patients of South Asian descent in Australia.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(An agency of Greater Bengaluru Authority for SWM)
Reg.Office:30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area,
Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. E-Mail: ceobswml@gmail.com, nodalofficerswm@gmail.com

Ref. No.: CEO/PS/PR/363/2026-27 Dated: 10.04.2026

:: Public Notice ::
For the Information of Bulk Waste Generators (Residential/ Commercial/ Institutional)

Sub: Dissemination of waste management data (waste disposal) to individual members of bulk waste generator entities(RWAs) to file property tax returns for the FY 2026-27 - reg.

Ref: 1. Solid Waste Management Rules-2026.
2. SWM Bye Laws 2020.

This is to inform all general public categorized as Bulk Waste Generators (Residential/ Commercial/ Institutional) as per ref (01&02) that solid waste management user fee is integrated with property tax filing software in which at Sl.No.12; owner/occupier of the property who is an individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWA) shall have to self-declare the data pertaining to waste management. Step by Step detailed information sought in the software is available at **https://bswml.karnataka.gov.in.**

It becomes necessary for each individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWA - either adopted in-situ processing or engaged Authorized Waste Processor) to enter the data while filing property tax. If, neither adopted in-situ processing nor engaged Authorized Waste Processor, then individual member of bulk waste generator entity (RWA) shall enter his individual approximate average quantity of waste generation per day to avail BSWML services by paying user fee along with PT.

In this connection, the managing Committee of all bulk waste generator entities (RWAs) is hereby requested to disseminate/share the data of waste management (waste disposal) to individual members of bulk waste generator entities (RWAs) to enable them for hassle free filing of property tax returns for the FY 2026-27. Individual members of bulk waste generator entities to acknowledge the same.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/146/SSC/2026-27

Turning up

Voter enthusiasm is a sign of a healthy democracy

Assam and Puducherry recorded historically the highest, and Kerala close to the highest, turnout in Assembly polls held on April 9. In Assam, 85.91% of the electorate turned up to vote, while in Puducherry it was 89.97% and in Kerala, 78.27%. It is hazardous to pinpoint the reasons for high turnouts and treacherous to read meanings into them. However, some reasons are objectively identifiable and some meaningful conjectures can be made. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Puducherry and Kerala culled considerable numbers of names – 7.5% and 3.2%, respectively. In Assam, given that a process for the creation of a National Register of Citizens for the State is underway, it was a Special Revision which is a less rigorous updating of the rolls that led to its shrinking by less than 1%. The smaller size of the denominator – the size of the electorate – is one reason why the turnout percentages are high. Ghost voters and duplicate entries may have been eliminated in the process. Another reason for the higher turnout is that due to intense concerns regarding potential disenfranchisement around the SIR/SR, voters may have taken a keener interest in turning up at the booth. In Assam, for instance, large numbers of migrant voters travelled home to vote. In Kerala, anecdotal reporting suggests that its migrant voters from West Asia who travel during polling season could not do so this time due to the ongoing war.

The Election Commission of India, which is facing flak on various issues, took pride in the high turnout. CEC Gyanesh Kumar termed it a "historic testimony not only for India but for the entire democratic world." Chief Ministers of all three States hailed the voter enthusiasm as a mark of popular support for the continuation of their governments, while the Opposition in all three sought to interpret it as a bugle of change. That dispute will be settled when the votes are counted on May 4, but regardless of the outcome, voter enthusiasm is the sign of a healthy democracy. That precisely is the reason why the ECI should take on board in an enabling rather than a restrictive manner all the disputes regarding the SIR. While the SIR can clean up the voter rolls, it should never become a case of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Rebuilding ties

India must approach foreign relations with more pragmatism, less emotion

New Delhi's recent moves to re-engage diplomatically and hold Foreign Office Consultations with diplomats in Turkiye and Azerbaijan is a considerable shift in the government's policy, especially over the past year. Since the India-Pakistan conflict and Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the government had expressed its anger not just at Pakistan, but at countries that were seen as supportive of Pakistan, diplomatically or militarily during the conflict. In particular, the Ministry of External Affairs had expressed its disappointment with statements made by Turkiye, Azerbaijan and Malaysia, that questioned the government's decision to launch strikes on terror sites in Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attacks. During briefings about Operation Sindoor, as the 96-hour military conflict from May 7-10 was named, the government left out envoys from countries that it felt had not expressed solidarity with India. In a military briefing in July, the deputy chief of army staff said India had had to contend with at least three adversaries on its border with Pakistan, including Turkiye. Azerbaijan too was believed to have helped Pakistan with technological support. Trade and tourism to Turkiye and Azerbaijan dropped significantly for several months, as calls to boycott them went out from influential accounts. During its evacuation of Indians from Iran after U.S.-Israel airstrikes on nuclear installations in June 2025, the MEA pointedly told those heading out by land routes to use Armenia and Turkmenistan, not either Turkiye or Azerbaijan. In addition, foreign policy commentary suggested that India was building an alliance of India, Armenia, and Greece as a counter to their age-old rivals - Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkiye - who had already formed a strong trilateral grouping. Given the heated rhetoric, and the freeze in diplomatic ties, the decision to send Secretary West in the MEA, Sibi George, to Baku to revive Foreign Office Consultations with Azerbaijani counterparts last week, and to invite the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister to Delhi this week, are significant diplomatic moves that indicate that Baku and Ankara too feel that better bilateral relations are in their interests.

In a world more fraught with conflicts that fast spiral out of control, it is necessary for New Delhi to pick its diplomatic battles more carefully. The quick escalation from government demarches to online outrage and calls for boycotts have in the past few years had a detrimental impact on bilateral ties with close friends as well as neighbours. With countries that are adversaries, as both Turkiye and Azerbaijan have been, given their closeness to Pakistan and positions on the Kashmir dispute, New Delhi must consider its options with less emotion and more pragmatism. India has traditionally managed relations between rivals without allowing itself to be hyphenated with Pakistan, or by falling into multilateral "camps".

An alternative to Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhisthan Bill

Dinesh Abrol

Faculty, Transdisciplinary Research Cluster on Sustainability Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhisthan (VBSA) Bill proposes to statutorily take forward the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP 2020) that the Union government adopted during the COVID period without consultation with State governments. The Bill is under examination of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), which offers an opportunity to teachers, students, State governments, and civil society to submit their amendment proposals. The Bill, as it stands, is a constitutional overreach. Entry 66 of the Union List gives limited and specific legislative power to Parliament only for coordination and determination of standards in higher education institutions (HEIs). Now, the VBSA Bill gives sole discretionary power to Union government-controlled councils to determine standards, conduct inspection, and exercise independent, unlimited powers and functions. Under the Bill, the Education Ministry has usurped the authority of allocating funds to HEIs.

The Bill does not envisage participation of higher education institutions in decision making. Bureaucratic overreach is written into each provision of it. Bureaucrats have been given the charge of transforming higher education. The Bill dilutes the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s consultative requirements. Section 13 of the UGC Act provides for inspections for the purpose of ascertaining the financial needs of a university or its standards of teaching, examination, and research. The UGC is statutorily required to undertake inspections only after consultation with the university. The VBSA Bill, which covers Central and State-funded universities as well as private universities, takes away the autonomy of the governing bodies of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Inter-University Centres.

In the name of "Bhartiya Knowledge", the Bill seeks to sow the seeds for Hindutva ideologies. It explicitly undermines the multi-cultural character of Indian knowledge. It allows bureaucratic control, centralised ways of prescriptive regulation, determination of standards, and accreditation process. The Bill seeks to promote hyper globalisation and to regulate based on outputs legitimised in global rankings. It does not seek outcomes for national innovation, self-reliance, and social justice. The Bill has been brought in to allow the Centre to withdraw from the obligation to promote education as a public-funded enterprise for common good and push dependence on loans for higher education. It does not provide for the enforcement of affirmative action and reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs. It does not seek inter-institutional, inter-State and inter-regional justice.

State Higher Education Councils should be represented on the three councils envisaged under the Bill

Justice to States

The National Research Foundation (NRF) was proposed in the NEP 2020 to provide research funds to State universities (SUs). As of now, it has no provisions to provide block grants to SUs for integrated scholarship (teaching, research, and outreach). The State Higher Education Councils (SHECs) need to be represented on the councils envisaged under the VBSA Bill. The Councils should provide for consensual decision making to pursue a jointly strategic direction. The SHECs should also have a clear mandate and space for influencing the future of HEIs. The Bill should explicitly affirm the role and contribution of associations of students, teachers, and non-teaching staff in the governance of higher education by involving HEIs' senates and academic councils in gathering feedback on planning and progress.

Under the Bill, the Regulatory Council (Viniyaman Parishad) is envisaged as the primary enforcer of governance and institutional norms. The Bill should not give the Centre a free hand and responsibility for formal recognition, authorisation, and closure of institutions. It now provides for graded financial penalties for regulatory violations. No institution should be closed without getting the consent of the government of the State where it is located. Under the Bill, the accreditation council will outsource the task of accreditation to a network of third-party accrediting institutions to circumvent the deliberative process and sideline the desirable outcomes that the society expects the HEIs to contribute to. The Accreditation Council (Gunvatta Parishad) provides for technology-driven quality assessment. The approach to regulation should be deliberative and process-oriented; it cannot be prescriptive.

Output-based evaluation (patents and publications), focussed on assessment of institutions based on educational outputs (learning levels and employability), may not have much to do with the desirable outcomes. Evaluation should be outcome- and impact-centric. The Standards Council (Manak Parishad), sitting in Delhi, cannot be expected to define standards and attributes for all types of higher education. The standards will have to be shaped industrial sector- and State-wise.

Constitutionally speaking, education is a subject under the Concurrent List. The VBSA Bill's provisions are applicable to all State governments. The State governments should have a role in the determination of standards, accreditation, and regulations. The determination of standards, accreditation, and regulations cannot be a top-down affair. Currently, States fund their higher education systems. The Bill does not offer social and inter-regional equity. Under it, private sector higher education institutions do not provide for equity and social justice. The State governments can and should be expected to take care of priorities such as contribution to school education, environment, climate, local resources rejuvenation, and local economic development.

The amended Bill must give 50% weightage each to SHECs and the Union government's councils in the process of regulation, accreditation, and determination of standards, so as to focus on the goals of space for inter-regional equity, linguistic and cultural autonomy, social justice, innovation, fundamental science, new technologies, and global excellence. The Bill should also consider incorporating a provision for regional councils to accommodate emerging ecological and socio-technical aspects in their deliberations.

The amended Bill should provide for an alternative framework for governance of higher education as a shared responsibility to build enabling mechanisms into the structures to be developed for transformative governance. The Bill must have a separate Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) to disburse the funds available to the Ministry of Education for the integration of teaching, research, and outreach. The HEGC will have to provide not only regular funding to Central institutions but also generous funding to laggards run by the States to bridge the historical discrimination, structural gaps and voids, and deficits arising out of lack of support for research and outreach.

SHECs' role and contribution should be legislated to realise the vision and strategy of joint implementation of standards, accreditation, and regulation through the proposed verticals in the form of three separate councils. The councils for regulation, accreditation, and standards determination should be maintained by academics and professionals and have their own separate budgets. The SHECs should be duly funded by the HEGC to enable the process to become a shared responsibility. All the cesses that are presently provided for the implementation of the shared responsibility should be at the disposal of the HEGC. Who should regulate what should be explicitly stated in the amended Bill. The public purposes of higher education should be specifically mentioned to disburse allocations for the outcomes proposed for consideration.

Bolstering deterrence through submarine dominance

Harsh V. Pant

Vice-President, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Sayantan Haldar

Associate Fellow, Maritime Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

On April 3, the word 'Aridhaman' found mention in Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's cryptic post on X. This prompted widespread speculation that it signalled the quiet commissioning of INS Aridhaman, the third submarine in the Indian Navy's SSBN (nuclear ballistic missile submarine) programme. Launched in 2009, the Indian Navy commissioned its first SSBN, INS Arihant, in 2016, followed by the second submarine, INS Arighat, in 2024. Speculation about the commissioning of INS Aridhaman assumed momentum since last year after Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, confirmed that the submarine was in the final stages of its trials. The next submarine in this series, which is of the Arihant class as well, is likely to be commissioned next year.

Compared to its predecessors, INS Arihant and INS Arighat, INS Aridhaman has greater firing power and marks a gradual upgrade in the series of SSBNs commissioned by the Indian Navy. It is a larger 7000-tonne vessel, which can reportedly carry up to 24 K-15 Sagarika missiles, and up to eight nuclear-tipped K-4 or K-5 missiles. In contrast, the previous submarines in this series hold the capacity for carrying 12 K-15 Sagarika missiles and four K-4 missiles.

Through the commissioning of INS Aridhaman, India appears to have further emboldened its nuclear triad, which refers to New Delhi's capability to launch strategic nuclear delivery systems from land, sea, and air. Importantly, apart from India, the P5 countries - the U.S., Russia, China, France and the U.K. - possess the nuclear triad capabilities. In addition to this, the commissioning of the submarine further enhances India's deterrence capabilities in the maritime domain. Strengthening of sea-based deterrence is seen as especially critical, given that it has rapidly emerged as a key imperative in bolstering India's nuclear capabilities. To be sure, India's nuclear outlook is anchored on its 'no first use' policy. However, the strategic environment in the Indian Ocean is continually worsening, led by increasing Chinese presence in the region by way of research and survey vessels which possess dual-use technologies and run the risk of being deployed for the purpose of intelligence gathering. Sea-based deterrence is indeed critical to forestall adversarial manoeuvres by China and even Pakistan.

Given the changing nature of warfare, it is essential to strengthen deterrence capabilities across land, air, and sea

Notably, the Indian Ocean has for long remained dormant due to the lack of any significant maritime security conflict. However, in today's time, the changing nature of warfare, which possesses the possibility of swift transition from one domain to the other, makes it essential to strengthen deterrence capabilities across all domains – land, air, and sea. More recently, the evolving conflict in West Asia serves as a crucial reminder of how modern warfare is not limited to a single domain anymore. What started as American and Israeli air campaigns against Iran has quickly assumed a critical maritime character, whereby the Strait of Hormuz has now emerged as the epicentre shaping much of the future of this war. Furthermore, last year, Operation Sindoor, India's measured counter-terror response against Pakistan, too demonstrated that a naval dimension to the campaign could have indeed been a possibility. Wars in this era do not belong with different domains in silos but rather remain susceptible to spilling over to other domains as well. This complexity of modern warfare underlines why possessing nuclear triad capabilities, especially boosting deterrence, will continue to remain a key priority for India's national security apparatus.

Furthermore, the SSBN project has significantly boosted India's defence establishment's quest for self-reliance in defence production. With active conflicts persisting in different strategic pockets of the world, a strain in defence supply chains appears to be on the horizon. For India, the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war has spurred momentum in strategies to work towards self-reliance in defence production given Moscow's importance for India as a traditional defence partner.

In addition to this, plans to soon induct a fourth vessel of the Arihant class is likely to guide India's SSBN programme going forward. Importantly, New Delhi also seeks to commission India's first fully indigenously designed nuclear attack submarine (SSN) by 2036, with the commissioning of the second in the programme in 2038. The rapid strides taken by the Indian Navy is building its nuclear-powered submarine programme signals that submarine dominance is fast emerging as a key component in scripting New Delhi's strategy to bolster deterrence.

Going forward, the key challenges confronting the Indian Navy in this domain are likely going to emanate from how efficiently New Delhi balances spending its resources on upgrading its submarines programme with how it inducts new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and autonomous systems in design and production of these vessels. At a time when the roster of the Indian Navy's assets is continually compared with that of China, it will be critical for New Delhi to keep pace with Beijing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sign of a democracy alive

The turnouts in the Assembly polls in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry have proved that the Indian voter still reposes considerable faith in the electoral process and is determined to make his or her vote count. Although the Election Commission has carried out the Modi government's mandate of undertaking a systematic disenfranchisement campaign, the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, and has deprived crores of Indians the right to vote guaranteed under the Constitution, those who survived the onslaught are keen on voting and this is a sign that the Indian democracy is still alive and kicking.

C.V. Aravind
Bengaluru

Towering cricketer

In the passing away of Sri C.D. Gopinath, Tamil Nadu Cricket has lost a towering figure who was a prominent player along with late A.G. Kripal Singh in the sixties. I remember people flocking to MCC grounds (presently MA Chidambaram stadium) regularly on Sundays to watch them entertaining the crowds with their batting. Gopinath was a leg side player while Kripal Singh enthralled the audience with silky late cuts. Gopinath was a shrewd captain who took Tamil Nadu Cricket to great heights in zonal and national competitions. I wish TNCC will honour him by instituting some commemorative awards.

V. Jagadeesan
Chennai

The passing of cricketer C.D. Gopinath at the age of 90 marks the end of a remarkable life. Over the decades, he earned respect not only for his professional accomplishments, but also for his integrity and humility. Gopinath's contributions extended beyond his immediate field, as he remained actively engaged in public life and social causes.

Rukma Sharma
Jalandhar

Temple entry

The Supreme Court has remarked that we must 'follow the sampradaya' ("Follow rituals, observances of a temple or stay out: SC", April 10). Temple etiquette, such as wearing a dhoti or removing one's shirt, do not cause the exclusion of a certain group of people. Menstruation, however, is not a choice like a dress code; it is biological. If we had always followed temple rituals and observances, would the landmark temple entry reforms of the 20th century ever have taken place? At that time, the exclusion of "lower" castes was defended using similar arguments of 'sampradaya'. Menstruation is still widely considered impure and many families in Kerala still restrict their menstruating members from certain rituals and social events. The Court's stance risks reinforcing such beliefs.

Rishi Sunil
Kerala

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Evicted villagers show their voters' ID, now deemed invalid, in Kachutali in Kamrup Metropolitan district of Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR

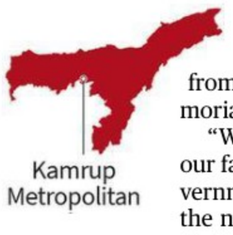
In Assam, first evicted, now erased

After a revision of electoral rolls in Assam, many people, mostly Bengali-speaking Muslims evicted from government land, lost their voting rights and now hold voter IDs deemed invalid. The fear of being made non-citizens is strongest at Kachutali village, about 30 km east of Guwahati, where more than 2,000 voters could not be a part of the democratic process of electing a new government, reports **Rahul Karmakar**

Babur Ali, 62, and his son Mukaddas Ali, 33, were among the approximately 350 people who had gathered outside two polling stations – Sonapur Pathar Lower Primary School and a government facility at Kachutali Part 1 – in central Assam's Kamrup Metropolitan district on April 9. They hoped against hope that the officials beyond the Lakshman Rekha, a line at least 300 metres from the entrance to each polling booth, which they were told not to cross, would restore their voting rights. These 350 women and men represented more than 2,000 people across three parts of Kachutali, who had ceased to exist as voters after the Special Revision (SR) of electoral rolls was conducted in Assam between November 2025 and February 2026.

All the adults of Babur's 15-member family demonstrated outside the Sonapur Pathar Lower Primary School, barring his youngest son, Samsul. Around the same time, 20-year-old Samsul cast his vote at a booth in the Chenga Assembly constituency of western Assam's Barpeta district.

He hoped his vote would make a difference to his family, who are now about 120 kilometres from where their home once stood before an eviction drive in September 2024. Samsul used the postal address of his maternal uncle in Barpeta district to enlist as a voter. He listed his father's voter ID number in the "relative" column, even though the Election Commission had removed his father's name from the voters' list in Kachutali, under the Dimoria Assembly constituency.



"We are happy for the youngest member of our family, but we fail to understand how the government accepted him as a voter after deleting the name of our father, who has been voting at Kachutali since 1985," says Mukaddas.

Mukaddas was a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and contested the 2018 panchayat polls. He thought his association with the ruling BJP made his family immune to any drive against the 'Miya' people – a pejorative for Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims – that the party unleashed after it retained power in 2021.

He was wrong; his house was among the first 150 that the local administration began demolishing on September 9, 2024, to clear about 100 bighas or 33 acres of notified tribal land. A year later, he found his name missing from the voters' list along with some 2,000 others. They were among the 2.43 lakh voters removed from the revised electoral rolls released in February.

"If my removal from the voters' list is a message that I am an Indian no longer, how was it that I was allowed to contest an election and even given a card by the Kamrup Metropolitan District Commissioner after my documents were cleared," he asks.

> If my removal from the voters' list is a message that I am an Indian no longer, how was it that I was allowed to contest an election after my documents were cleared?
>
> **MUKADDAS ALI**
> Former BJP rural polls contestant

Displaced by the river

According to government records, Assam has 30 tribal blocks and 17 tribal belts notified decades ago to safeguard the land rights of the State's protected class. Abdul Aziz, 91, and Jayanal Haque, 80, say they were not aware of the status of the land in Kachutali when they bought it.

"We have agreements for land purchased from the Karbi tribal people in the 1980s. We also have the receipts of *khajna* (land tax) paid till the time of our eviction. The government says these land documents are *kutcha* (not legal) and we have no right to live here," says Haque, who often spends his time staring blankly from the veranda of the Kachutali Jamia Masjid at the spot where his house once stood.

About 80 evicted families are now living in cramped shanties around the mosque, which was spared during the 2024 demolition.

Haque and Aziz are from Mayang Gazbari, a village that disappeared over 40 years ago after the Brahmaputra river washed away its last homes. Located about 16 km north-east of Kachutali, the village lay near the meeting point of the Brahmaputra and its southern tributary, the Kolong river. It also sat at the junction of three districts – Kamrup (before it was divided), Darrang, and Morigaon. All the evicted families in Kachutali say they were displaced by the river from riverbank villages around the tri-junction of these districts.

"We would perhaps not have come here had the Brahmaputra not swallowed up our riverbank homes and homesteads. Some of us still grow crops on the *chars* (sandbars) near our original homes, apart from the farmlands we purchased from the tribal people, which we no longer have access to," Haque says.

Holding his voter ID, now rendered useless, Haque says his family faced a similar situation years ago. During the 1979 revision of electoral rolls for the Mangaldai Lok Sabha by-election, a cousin was included in a list of about 36,000 people marked as 'doubtful voters'. Mayang Gazbari was part of that constituency.

The list sparked the Assam Agitation of 1979-85, which aimed to drive out non-citizens from the State. Over time, "non-citizen" started to mean Miya or Bangladeshi or the more politically correct term, illegal immigrants. "We have never been made to feel wanted since, but things were not as bad as now," says Aziz.

The deserted Kachutali polling station on April 9. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Soon after taking charge as Chief Minister in May 2021, Himanta Biswa Sarma announced his government's resolve to free various categories of government land, including forests and community grazing grounds, from encroachment. The drive began with Garukhuti in Darrang district in September 2021. The All Assam Tribal Sangha and other indigenous organisations began mounting pressure on the government for a similar action across the tribal blocks and belt. The Kamrup Metropolitan district authorities issued a notice to the Kachutali residents in September 2024, allegedly giving them three days to vacate the land they had occupied.

The eviction began on September 9, 2024, to clear about 100 bighas of land. Tensions escalated when the displaced villagers reoccupied the land three days later and clashed with the officials who resumed the demolition process. Two men, Haider Ali and Jubahir Ali, died in police firing, while 33 others were injured in the clash. A group of 48 evicted people approached the Supreme Court, which issued a stay order on September 30, 2024. However, residents say the authorities carried out another eviction drive in April 2025, demolishing the last of the houses and structures in the targeted area. At the end of the operation, more than 650 families were relocated temporarily to three camps within a kilometre of the area they were evicted from.

"The eviction notice was not as scary as the one we received in November 2024 from the electoral registration officer. It said that our names might be deleted from the voters' list because we have ceased to be ordinary residents of Kachutali," says 34-year-old Akkas Ali, a farmer who has been surviving on occasional work in the urban centres nearby.

"We were told to reapply (for enlisting as voters) from wherever we came. We reapplied in Kachutali because we had nowhere else to go, but our applications were rejected. At the District Commissioner's office in Guwahati, we were advised to get a certificate (confirming they are residents in an area under the jurisdiction) from the *gaonburah* (village chief), who said we needed a valid voter ID to get the certificate. Our Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and other documents were ignored. It was as if everyone conspired to deny us our voting rights," he adds.

The office of the district electoral officer told the media that the notices served on the evicted people and the action thereafter were part of a special summary revision of the electoral roll. Jiten Kakati, the *gaonburah*, merely said he had followed a certain process.

Depriving people of voting rights

In 2025, the Chief Minister said over 1.29 lakh bighas or 42,000 acres out of an approximately 29 lakh bighas (about 3,900 sq. km) of government land had been freed from encroachers. He also said individuals evicted from illegally occupied land will have their names removed from the voters' list. Ahead of the April 9 Assembly polls, he sought another five years for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government to complete the eviction mission and "break the backbone of Miyas politically".

Legal experts say the government has the right to evict encroachers from its land, preferably after giving them adequate time and adopting a humanitarian approach. "You can evict a bona fide Indian voter from a place where he or she is not legally permitted to settle. Encroachment of land is a criminal offence that needs to be dealt with accordingly. The criminality of the act does not empower the State administration to deprive people of their voting right, which is connected to their citizenship status," says Fazluzzaman Mazumdar, a Gauhati High Court advocate.

"The conditions with Form 7 issued by the Election Commission say that a voter can be deleted from the electoral roll if he or she is dead or has migrated permanently to another place and has enrolled there or if someone complains against him or her, provided it is legally proved," Mazumdar says. He adds that the deletion of voters for an unrelated illegal act is unfair. They have the right to appeal to the Election Commission for enrolment. If that does not work, they can file a writ petition at the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India (for the enforcement of fundamental rights). "Unfortunately, the affected people are mostly poor and uneducated," he adds.

Ibrahim Ali, a 45-year-old trader, says the villagers lost a fortune to stay the eviction in vain. "We can rebuild a house, but how can we earn for it when we don't have access to our farmlands? Most of us had to sell our livestock because we had no place to rear them. Under such circumstances, we cannot imagine going to the court to restore our voting rights," he says.

D-voter scare

Almost two decades after putting a question mark on the citizenship of a section of voters in the Mangaldai Lok Sabha constituency, the Election Commission issued a circular in July 1997, directing the Assam government to remove non-citizens from the electoral rolls. Assam, thus, became the only State with a 'D-voter' or 'doubtful voter' category in its electoral rolls. During the intensive revision of the electoral rolls that followed, almost 3.7 lakh people were marked 'D'. They were barred from contesting elections and casting their votes.

In 2005, when a house-to-house survey was carried out by the poll panel, a large number of people marked 'D' in 1997 could not be traced. This list was officially revised to 1.81 lakh. Almost two decades later, Chief Minister Sarma said Assam has 97,987 'D-voters' and the tag was removed from more than 89,000 people from 1997 to 2023. He also said that 26,144 'D-voters' received notices from the Foreigners' Tribunal, while 11,819 cases were pending.

The Foreigners' Tribunals are quasi-judicial courts that adjudicate the citizenship of a person referred by the Assam police's Border wing, which is tasked with detecting and detaining suspected foreigners. Based on documents, the tribunals either declare the suspected foreigners as Indians or send them to detention or transit camps, to be eventually "deported to the country they came from".

Announcing the SR exercise for Assam on November 17, 2025, the Election Commission specified that the details of 'D-voters' should not be included during the house-to-house verification. It said that the particulars of all such voters have to be carried forward to the draft electoral rolls without any change. Any modification in a D-voter's status, including removal or deletion of the 'doubtful' tag, can be made only based on an order from the Foreigners' Tribunal or a court.

"We were never doubtful voters, but the government put us in a new category – deleted voters – not because we are foreigners but because they say we occupied lands we were not supposed to, although we have land purchase deeds," Ibrahim says.

The residents of Kachutali hope the next government will resettle them or allot them some space to live without having to wear the non-voter tag on their foreheads. "We did not expect the BJP leaders to come to us offering hope. Members of other political parties, including the Congress and All India United Democratic Front, who claim to be friends of the minorities, let us down; they did not even visit us. So, we are not sure if we will get justice after a new government is formed," Haque says.

The evictees fear that deletion from the electoral roll was the first step to robbing them of their citizenship and deporting them. "A government that can make us homeless can also kill us. Being dead should be better than living a life of uncertainty," Annaf Ali, 65, says.

rahul.karmakar@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

India 'concerned' over deaths in Lebanon

The fight between Israel and Hezbollah has become extensive as the Israeli Defence Forces have invaded South Lebanon in a bid to corner Hezbollah. This has also increased challenges for UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), which is stationed along the border between Israel and Lebanon.

On March 28, UNIFIL said that an "explosion of unknown origin" killed three Indonesian peacekeepers. India had condemned the incident on April 2.

On Friday, the MEA reiterated India's contribution to UNIFIL and said, "As a troop-contributing country to UNIFIL that is invested in Lebanon's peace and security, the direction of events is very disturbing.
(Inputs from AFP)

SC takes note of Indians 'forced' to fight in Russia

The petition has arraigned, besides the Union government, the Indian Embassy in the Russian Federation, and the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh as respondents.

It has sought a judicial direction to the Union government through the Ministry of External Affairs, to take "immediate diplomatic and consular measures through the Embassy of India in the Russian Federation to ascertain the whereabouts, legal status and safety of the detained Indian nationals named in the petition; secure consular access to these individuals and applicable bilateral consular agreements and take all necessary diplomatic steps to facilitate their protection, welfare, and safe repatriation to India, wherever permissible under the International Law".

The plea said the government must take steps to identify and prosecute persons involved in illegal overseas recruitment, trafficking and exploitation of Indian citizens. The petition has also asked for the protocol and standard operating mechanism followed by the Union government in cases when Indian citizens were reported missing, detained or stranded abroad. The tentative date of the next hearing is April 24.

Cong. to consult allies on quota law, delimitation

Kharge to convene INDIA bloc meeting ahead of the three-day Special Session to amend women's reservation law; CWC in favour of immediate quota, but wants wider consultation on delimitation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Key meeting: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal and others during the CWC meeting at Indira Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Friday discussed the Central government's move to carry out the delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 census and operationalise the women's reservation law. It then announced that the party will formulate a joint strategy for the Special Session of Parliament after consulting other Opposition parties.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will convene a meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on April 15, a day before the three-day Special Session begins to amend the women's reservation law so that it can be implemented by the 2029 Lok Sabha election and increase the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by 50%.

'Serious consequences'

In his opening speech to the CWC, Mr. Kharge said the proposed changes will have "serious consequences" and will "seriously impact" the electoral system.

"It [the government] wants to increase the Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816. There will be an increase in the same proportion in the legislative Assemblies. This delimitation proposal will have serious consequences. Therefore, there is a need for a deep discussion on delimitation," Mr. Kharge said.

At the closed-door meeting, sources said, discussions centred around evolving a strategy that makes it clear that the Congress supports the immediate implementation of women's reservation law, but wants wider consultation on the delimitation exercise.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who joined the meeting online, said the party cannot be seen opposing the immediate implementation of women's reservation, while Rahul Gandhi asserted the delimitation will necessarily lead to a talk of a North-South divide. This point was amplified by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

MP Manish Tewari is said to have argued that instead of fixing a predetermined number like 50%, the strength of legislature should be fixed post census. Seats can then be reserved for women on the current strength of 543 members.

Party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra noted that it was important to understand the government's larger plan behind the move.

Addressing a press conference, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh reiterated the party's demand for an all-party meeting after the ongoing Assembly elections get over on April 29. "It [delimitation] will have far-reaching consequences," he said. "The issue is not women's reservation. This is the Prime Minister's game. He owes an apology to the women of the country for disregarding the Congress suggestion of implementing the law in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls."

BJP plans public outreach campaign on women's quota

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nitin Nabin

Ahead of the three-day extended session of Parliament to consider proposed amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, BJP national president Nitin Nabin discussed a wide-ranging public outreach programme on the issue with State unit presidents and national office-bearers in New Delhi on Friday.

The government has extended the Budget Session, with a special sitting from April 16 to 18. The BJP's outreach campaign is to begin from Saturday and will include at least 50 town hall events, with the biggest to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Apart from town hall meetings, where women achievers from all walks of life are to be featured, *Nari Shakti* padyataras and press conferences on the amendments will also be held. The aim is to build wide support for the amendments that seek to implement 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Mr. Modi, is learnt to have cleared the draft amendment Bill on Wednesday.

The provision for 33% reservation was brought through an amendment in 2023, but its implementation was contingent on the completion of delimitation based on the 2027 Census. Therefore, it was expected to come into force only in 2034 under the present law.

According to the proposed amendments, the number of Lok Sabha seats would be increased from 543 to 816, with 273 seats reserved for women. Reservation will also be done on a "vertical basis", with seats allocated for SCs and STs. Instead of waiting for the Census 2027, the redrawing of constituencies will be done based on the 2011 census. A similar exercise will be carried out for State Assemblies, where seats will be reserved on a pro-rata basis.

Draft master plan for Great Nicobar Island projects tourism as primary growth driver

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The draft master plan for developing the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) under the Centre's ₹92,000-crore mega-infrastructure project has proposed to focus on tourism as the "primary economic driver" of growth, noting that it also intends to get the "population to settle here", through both permanent and temporary jobs that are expected to be created.

The plan has been drafted for a projected population of 3.36 lakh by 2055. By that time, the master plan is expected to achieve an annual inflow of more than a million tourists. Of the projected 3.36 lakh, the local Nicobarese population is expected to grow to about 11,500 from the current 7,500.

Tribes challenge plan

The project, which received Stage-I clearance in 2022, includes an international container transshipment port, an airport, power plants, and a township. However, soon after the clearance, the local Nicobarese population withdrew its consent, alleging that their forest rights had not been settled. The Calcutta High Court is currently hearing a challenge to the project's clearances.

Under "future development", the draft hints at possible development of the Pemmaya buffer area on the western flank of Galathea Bay, where "tribal settlements" may be permitted.

However, this appears at variance with a separate draft relocation plan to shift local Nicobarese tribes further north to Pulobhabi. While the draft master plan has been notified for public consultation, suggestions, and objections for 30 days, the notification does not mention when the plan was made public.

The draft master plan has been uploaded on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration's Public Works Department website. Metadata from the plan document suggests that these files were created on March 31.

The notified draft master plan proposes a township divided into several clusters: an administrative and institutional cluster near Campbell Bay, a multi-modal logistic cluster (to include airport, port, freight and passenger terminals, defence area, and green development) near Galathea Bay, and tourism, entertainment, and processing clusters along the eastern coast of the island from Galathea Bay in the south to Campbell Bay in the north.

Envisioning the development of the island as a "seaside destination to enjoy in a pristine and protected environment", the plan suggests several tourism models – wellness tourism, beach tourism (seven potential beaches identified), nature and biodiversity tourism, adventure tourism, business tourism, gaming tourism, and hubs for family entertainment which may have theme parks.

The project is expected to span 166.10 sq. km. Of this, about 40.8% has been set aside as "urbanisable", with the rest for "special projects". About 121.86 sq km is to come from diverted forest areas.

SC refuses to intervene in T.N. voter deletion case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene for a woman whose name was deleted from the Tamil Nadu electoral roll in the special intensive revision.

The petitioner, C. Geetha, said her name had been a mainstay in the State's electoral roll over the years. She was even intending to contest as an independent candidate in the 51-Uthangarai (SC) Assembly Constituency and 52-Bargur Assembly Constituency in the State Assembly elections in 2026.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate Shashank Manish, for Ms. Geetha, contended she had not received any notice from the Election Commission and only came to know of the exclusion when she was filing her nomination.

Ms. Geetha had moved the apex court after the Madras High Court dismissed her plea.

The senior counsel said the date for nomination was over, however the supplementary list was still under preparation. Mr. Sankaranarayanan said his client had extensive documentary proof, including an Indian passport, to prove her citizenship.

Chief Justice Kant, after noting that the SIR list had come out in February, asked why she had delayed appealing against the exclusion. Mr. Sankaranarayanan said his client had not get a notice.

After the court declined to intervene, Mr. Sankaranarayanan said to the Bench, "I remember Justice Joymalya Bagchi, [who was part of the Bench] saying if there is mass exclusion, we will be protected. Now this is what has happened".

Justice Varma resigns

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

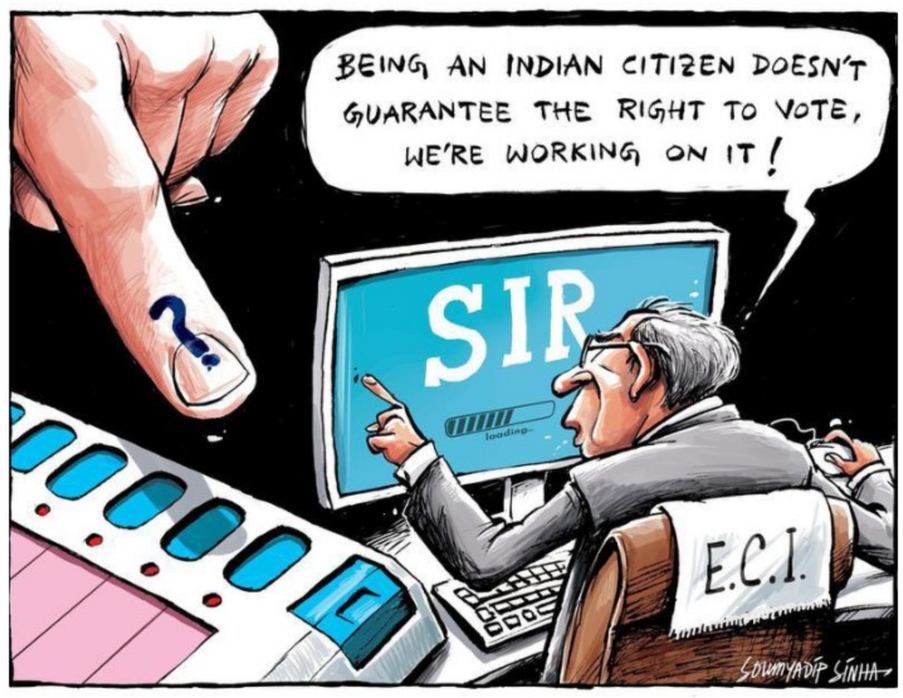
Justice Yashwant Varma, of the Allahabad High Court, who was facing a parliamentary motion for removal, submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday.

His resignation came amid reports that a panel, appointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, was set to look into the allegations of burnt currency being recovered from his official residence in Delhi during a fire in March last year.

In his letter sent to President Droupadi Murmu on April 9, Justice Varma wrote: "While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, with immediate effect."

In another letter written to withdraw from the proceedings before the Judges Inquiry Committee constituted by the Lok Sabha, Justice Varma termed the inquiry as 'unfair'. "I therefore withdraw from these proceedings with immediate effect and have instructed my Advocates accordingly. I withdraw with the deepest sadness, conscious of the gravity of my decision," he said.

On the draw



Over 2 crore names deleted across Uttar Pradesh as SIR exercise draws to a close

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Navdeep Rinwa

Over two crore names were removed from the electoral rolls of Uttar Pradesh as the 166-day special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in the State came to a close on Friday, with the release of the final list.

The total deletions (2,04,45,300) represent 13.21% of the total voters in the State before the SIR process commenced in October 2025. Before the SIR, Uttar Pradesh had 15.44 crore electors. In the draft electoral roll published on January 6 after the first phase of the process undertaken by the Election Commission , nearly 2.88 crore names were deleted. Over 84 lakh voters were added to the draft list, with the total electorate now at over 13.39 crore.

"The SIR exercise took place from October 27, 2025, to April 10, 2026, encompassing all 75 districts, 403 Assembly constituencies, and polling stations throughout the State. The 166-day initiative required extensive collaboration among officials," said Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa, addressing a press conference in Lucknow.

The final roll, released on Friday, now comprises 13,39,84,792 electors, with 7,30,71,071 male voters (approximately 54%) and 6,09,09,525 female voters (45.46%), he said. The number of third gender voters was recorded at 4,206. "The age group of 18-19 has experienced a notable increase, rising to 17,63,360 voters, which accounts for 1.32% of the electorate. The gender ratio has also improved to 834 female voters for every 1,000 male voters, an increase from 824 in the draft roll. The overall increase in the number of voters when compared to the draft roll is 84,28,767," he further said.

Mr. Rinwa added the draft electoral roll published on January 6, 2026 had 12,55,56,025 electors.

When compared to the pre-SIR rolls, Lucknow saw deletion of 22.89% voters, Agra 17.71%, and Prayagraj 17.62%.

The Congress reacted sharply, calling the SIR an institutional exercise to steal votes and demanded accountability over deaths of Booth-Level Officers. "The exercise's primary aim was to delete voters who support forces opposed to the ruling dispensation,", U.P. Congress president Ajay Rai said.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar takes oath as Rajya Sabha member

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

There is no clarity on when he would resign as Chief Minister. Speculation is rife that Mr. Kumar could resign in a day or two and a new Bihar Chief Minister may take oath next week. The JD(U) chief resigned as a member of the State Legislative Council on March 30 after he was elected to the Rajya Sabha.

The oath was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan in his chamber at a brief ceremony. Mr. Kumar took the oath in Hindi in the presence of Union Minister J.P. Nadda, who is also the Leader of the House; Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman; Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh; Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ram Nath Thakur; and Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Deputy CM present

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary was also present. Mr. Chaudhary was not originally expected to accompany Mr. Kumar, due to his campaigns in West Bengal, according to sources. However, he reached the capital after the BJP called a meeting with Bihar leaders in Delhi on Friday.

Harivansh takes oath after nomination

NEW DELHI
Rajya Sabha's outgoing Deputy Chairman and Janata Dal(U) leader Harivansh took the oath as a member of the Upper House on Friday. President Droupadi Murmu had nominated him for his third term to fill the vacancy created by former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

CEC hails 'historic' high voter turnout

With Assam, Puducherry and Kerala witnessing high voter turnouts, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar said the Assembly polls in the two States and one Union Territory were a "historic" testimony not only for India but for the entire democratic world.

There was record poll participation in the Assembly elections on Thursday, with the highest-ever voter turnout of 85.9% in Assam and 89.87% in Puducherry, crossing the previous highs of 84.67% for the State in 2016, and 86.19% for the Union Territory in 2011.

Kerala too recorded one of its highest polling percentages at 78.27%.

"On behalf of the EC, I congratulate each and every elector of Assam, Puducherry and Kerala for this historic achievement..," he said.

Gyanesh Kumar congratulated electors of Assam, Puducherry, and Kerala for the turnout. PTI

BJP imported voters for Assam polls: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday claimed that the BJP brought people from outside for the Assam elections as it was not confident of victory with the votes of the northeastern State's residents.

Addressing an election rally in North 24 Parganas, she alleged that no agency in the country was neutral under the BJP government at the Centre as "the saffron party has bought them all".

"A trainload of 50,000 people was brought to Assam from Uttar Pradesh," she claimed.

The Trinamool Congress chief alleged that the BJP was trying to use the same ploy in Bengal to bring in people from outside, which is why officers were transferred. The election to the 126-member Assam Assembly was held in a single phase on Thursday. PTI

> If we talk about infiltration, what is the status of deposed Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina staying in India? Is she a Bangladeshi infiltrator?
>
> **ABHISHEK BANERJEE**
> Trinamool general secretary

Repoll today in Assam booth after clashes

The Election Commission on Friday ordered repoll in a booth of Karimganj (North) constituency in Assam's Sribhumi. The repolling, ordered in booth 239 at Babyland English High School, will be held on Saturday. It was ordered following clashes between supporters of the BJP and Congress. PTI

> Whether it is DMK, TMC or Congress leaders, they have been abusing people from different States because their DNA is that of division
>
> **SHEHZAD POONAWALLA**
> BJP spokesperson

Former Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan is the BJP's candidate from Mylapore. S. SHIVARAJ

A high-profile contest brews in Chennai's Mylapore

R. Aishwaryaa
CHENNAI

Mylapore constituency in Chennai represents a blend of heritage, affluence, and working-class settlements. It comprises neighbourhoods like Mylapore, Santhome, Mandaveli, R.A. Puram, Annai Sathya Nagar, and parts of Nandanam and Foreshore Estate, with the Buckingham Canal traversing through it. Fishing hamlets like Pattinapakkam and Srinivasapuram are also part of the constituency.

The region has witnessed shifting political dominance since the 1960s, with the Congress initially and then the DMK and the AIADMK emerging victorious at different times. It even saw a BJP victory in 2001, when the party's former State president, K.N. Lakshmanan, won as part of the DMK alliance.

After that, the AIADMK bagged the seat thrice consecutively from 2006 – actor S.Ve. Shekher in 2006, R. Rajalakshmi in 2011, and former Director-General of Police R. Nataraj in 2016, despite the lingering devastation of the 2015 floods. In 2021, the DMK regained the seat after 20 years with Dha. Velu emerging victorious. This time, he is up against former BJP State president and former Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, who is seeking to enter the Tamil Nadu Assembly for the first time.

The other contenders are R.L. Arun of the Naam Tamilar Katchi, which is led by Seeman, and P. Venkataramanan of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam founded by actor Vijay.

Current issues

"During the last five years, the availability of drugs and alcohol appears to have grown multifold. Many people, especially youth, lie on pavements. It is a major safety hazard for women and children. Multiple complaints have yielded no results," said Mathiyazhagan, a fisherman from Srinivasapuram.

Anusuya and her friend, Desamma, fish vendors and workers at a beachside food stall and residents of Pattinapakkam for over 60 years, pointed to rising fuel costs. "Our businesses have been hit as fuel prices have increased. Fishermen have hiked rates to compensate for diesel prices for their boats. Even basic cooking has become difficult due to the irregular availability of gas cylinders. Inflation has hit the daily wage workers the hardest," they said.

Mylapore continues to grapple with civic infrastructure woes despite being one of the oldest urban localities of Chennai.

"In the 1950s, small country boats with goods plied the Buckingham Canal, and the waters were clean. Now, it is irreversibly polluted and neglected by successive regimes," said V. N. Subramanian, a resident of St. Mary's Road in R.A. Puram.

"Even a brief spell of rain leads to inundation due to rapid urbanisation and illegal sewage discharge. Frequent road digging and accidents are common," he added.

"There is a dearth of green spaces," said Ganga Sridhar of the Mandaveli Raja Street Residents Welfare Association. Petty thefts and safety concerns linked to alcoholism near TASMAC outlets are frequent in R.A. Puram, she said.

Sitting MLA Dha. Velu said if re-elected, he would focus on mitigating traffic congestion – exacerbated by Metro Rail work – and bolstering infrastructure such as drainage, surveillance, and housing.

"I will develop Mylapore through temple restoration, tourism initiatives, and youth support, with a long-term goal of making it a slum-free area," he said.

Welfare measures for the marginalised take centre stage in Bengal's Jhargram

Scheduled Castes and Tribes make up almost half of the district's population, giving them a decisive say in the verdict; Trinamool Congress and BJP square off over development plans, language recognition, and UCC implementation in a region emerging from the long shadow of Maoist extremism

GROUND REPORT

Shrabana Chatterjee
JHARGRAM/BINPUR

In the four Assembly seats of West Bengal's Jhargram district, candidates across party lines are highlighting welfare promises for marginalised communities who make up almost half the population and hold decisive electoral sway across the region.

This reflects the social composition of the district, which is part of the State's Jangalmahal region. Scheduled Castes account for 20.13% of the population, while Scheduled Tribes make up 29.32%, taking their combined share to nearly 49.5%, along with the significant presence of other backward classes.

Their massive vote share makes these communities a decisive electoral bloc that all major parties are keen to court.

"We need to make new rules for the people living in the forest area so they have better living conditions and employment. We should not be uprooting them; rather, we should try to use their knowledge about the forests to see if we can generate income through that," said Birbaha Hansda, the Trinamool Congress candidate in Binpur and current Minister of State for Forests and Consumer Affairs.

She added that, as a member of the tribal community, she tries to stay in touch with people on the ground to ensure her poll promises cater to their actual demands and are not solely based on party politics.

West Bengal Minister and Trinamool candidate Birbaha Hansda with voters in Binpur and, right, the BJP's Gopiballavpur candidate, Rajesh Mahato, prays during an election campaign. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jhargram's BJP candidate Lakshmikant Sahu, on the other hand, says the Trinamool government has done nothing to uplift the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities of the district in the past 15 years.

"Even basic things like pucca roads and a concrete house are not available for most people in the SC/ST communities in the area. People living close to the main town do not have basic facilities. Imagine the condition of people in the interior forest areas," Mr. Sahu said, vowing to bring industries to address the unemployment crisis.

Voters are sceptical about such promises from both the major parties.

"Polls come and go. The marginalised people here keep waiting for the promises to become reality. The work that actually happens here is a drop of what is promised," said a member of the Santhal community in the district.

He added that the divide between Santhals and Kurmis that political parties have created in the area has further marginalised them.

Contesting against Mr. Sahu in the Jhargram seat is Mangal Soren of the Trinamool. He said that while job scarcity remains a concern, there is a huge opportunity for self-employment and small-scale industries in the region.

Communities should be trained to tap into their skills to become independent, he said.

Divide over UCC

Mr. Soren, who also hails from the Adivasi community, accused the BJP of trying to end diversity among communities by demanding the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code.

"In a diverse country like India, bringing a law like the UCC will ruin the current working systems of the indigenous tribes, many of whom reside in Jhargram. We are a secular country, the UCC is not the right approach for us. We must respect individual communities and their systems," Mr. Soren added.

Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee agreed, saying, "If the UCC is implemented by the BJP, STs will be impacted the most."

The BJP has made it clear it will implement the UCC in the State if it comes to power. At the release of the party's poll manifesto on Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated this promise.

In Gopiballavpur constituency, the Kurmi community's long-standing desire for Scheduled Tribe status remains a key demand as the BJP has fielded Rajesh Mahato, a leader of the West Bengal Kurmi Samaj.

However, Mr. Mahato said that in the coming Assembly election, neither he nor the party is foregrounding the Kurmi demand for ST status.

"I do not make false promises. However, I want to work on getting recognition for our Kurmali language in the Eighth Schedule along with the Mundari language, which has long been sidelined," Mr. Mahato said, noting that this is a more achievable goal for him and a promise that will help the two communities take a step towards official recognition.

On Friday, Mr. Shah said the government plans to include the Kurmali and Rajbanshi languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. However, the same recognition was not offered to Mundari.

With a long history of Maoist insurgencies, development and welfare interventions have been constrained in these parts, but in recent years, poll promises have focused on such support for the marginalised.

When Mr. Banerjee campaigned from Binpur on March 27, he praised the party's development efforts. "In the past 12 years, what has the BJP government done for Binpur and Jamboni? What has been done for Adivasis and Tapashilis? On one hand, the CM has provided ₹1,700 to Adivasis and Tapashilis out of the *Lakshmir Bhandar* funds, and on the other hand, inflation is skyrocketing due to [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi. Mr. Modi is taking away what Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is giving you," he said.

He added that before 2011, the conditions in the area were so bad that people feared leaving their homes due to the Maoist insurgency, claiming that it is the Trinamool government that has established peace and prosperity in the region.

Jhargram goes to the polls on April 23. In the 2021 Assembly election, all four seats in the district were won by the Trinamool.

Jhargram votes on April 23. In the 2021 polls, all four seats in the district were won by the Trinamool

BJP promises Uniform Civil Code, cash doles in West Bengal manifesto

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday released its manifesto for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election, promising to double the cash benefits for women and unemployed youth offered by the ruling Trinamool Congress government, and to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the State.

The manifesto, titled *Sankalpa Patra*, was released in Kolkata by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. It promises ₹3,000 a month to women as against ₹1,500 provided under the Mamata Banerjee-led government's *Lakshmir Bhandar* scheme to about 2.42 crore beneficiaries. Other major announcements include a financial aid of ₹3,000 to unemployed youth, which has a stark similarity with the State's *Banglar Yuva Sathi* scheme launched by the Trinamool Congress government just before the election, offering ₹1,500 to beneficiaries aged 21 to 40.

Mr. Shah said that if elected to power, the BJP government would implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in six months.

Poll pitch: Union Home Minister Amit Shah releases the BJP's manifesto in Kolkata on Friday. R.V. MOORTHY

"Our government will work with a zero-tolerance policy towards infiltrators and will pick every one of them and force them out of the State," Mr. Shah said.

While the BJP has often targeted illegal infiltrators, this is the first time that the party has gone on record to implement the UCC in the State. The State's population consists of 27% Muslims, who have, in the past, opposed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, also known as Triple Talaq Act, and the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The manifesto has 15 major promises, including clearing dearness allowance dues for all government employees and pensioners and implementing the Seventh Pay Commission. Mr. Shah said people of West Bengal had become "weary" of the Trinamool Congress government and wanted change.

On the Chief Ministerial face, he said, "Our Chief Minister will be someone who is from the soil of West Bengal."

The *Sankalpa Patra* also promises rejuvenation of old tea gardens, strengthening Darjeeling Tea branding, modernisation of the jute industry and implementation of *Ayushman Bharat Yojana* along with all Union government schemes. The BJP sought a White Paper "exposing 15 years of Trinamool corruption and breakdown of law and order" and promised that if the BJP came to power, it would stop all "syndicate activities and cut money culture".

Will not stop fish, egg

Asked if the BJP would introduce restrictions on food items, Mr. Shah dismissed any such possibility. "Wherever we have come to power, we have not stopped any of the projects of the previous government for the poor. Fish and eggs will not be stopped either," he said.

Later in the day, the Home Minister addressed public meetings, including one at Debra in Paschim Medinipur, where he promised the implementation of the Ghatal Master Plan, a much-awaited irrigation project, within one year.

Polling for the 294-member Assembly will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29.

The Trinamool Congress has been in power in the State since 2011.

AIMIM ends alliance with Humayun's party after Trinamool clip

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) ended its alliance with the Humayun Kabir-led Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) on Friday in West Bengal, just two weeks ahead of the Assembly election.

This came after the Trinamool leadership released a video, which purportedly shows Mr. Kabir saying that he took money from the BJP to mislead the Muslims of Bengal.

The development assumes significance in the context of West Bengal's minority vote dynamics, where Muslims form almost 27% of the vote share, making them a decisive electoral bloc.

The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM took to X and announced that it would end the alliance with the AJUP and go solo in the coming election.

Reacting to the development, Mr. Kabir said, "I do not consider this a loss at all, because I do not run my political party depending on anyone. I had invited them [AIMIM], and they had accepted; for what reason they decided to break this alliance, that explanation will be given by them. I will not comment any further on this matter."

AJUP chief Humayun Kabir and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi earlier this month. PTI

Commenting on the controversy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "You do not know the power of Mamata*ji*. She can make many such videos. Humayun Kabir and the BJP are ideologically the North Pole and the South Pole. It is better for us to sit in the Opposition seat than to compromise with such a party."

The AIMIM said the revelations had shown the vulnerability faced by Muslims in Bengal.

INBRIEF

Army promotes Colonel Purohit to rank of Brigadier

Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case last year, has been cleared for promotion to the rank of Brigadier, sources in the Indian Army said on Friday. His scheduled retirement on March 31, 2026, was put on hold by the Armed Forces Tribunal, providing him an opportunity for career progression. The tribunal had stayed his retirement pending a decision on his statutory complaint seeking promotion and benefits. As per existing norms, colonels retire at the age of 54, while brigadiers retire at 56, making Colonel Purohit eligible for extended service if promoted. Colonel Purohit had approached the AFT, arguing that his career progression was adversely affected due to his arrest in 2008 and the prolonged trial that followed.

SC terms U.P. child assault and its aftermath 'appalling'

The Supreme Court on Friday found the brutal assault on a four-year-old child by her neighbour in Uttar Pradesh "appalling". The court also noted the denial of urgent medical treatment by two private hospitals, which led to her death, as well as the subsequent conduct of the local police, who allegedly assaulted and detained her family members when they went to file a complaint.Noting that the "diabolic" attack on the child and its aftermath has deeply troubled the court's conscience, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said an immediate, Supreme Court-monitored and time-bound investigation of the case by a Central independent investigating agency or a Special Investigation Team was required.

Marco Rubio to visit India in May to strengthen ties

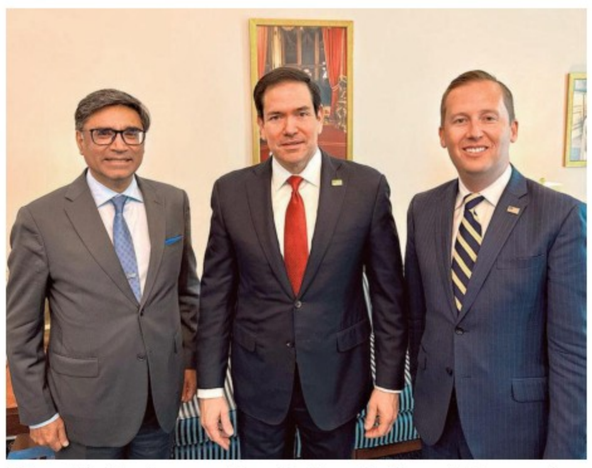
The U.S. Secretary of State's visit comes amid complications in bilateral ties due to trade issues and Iran war; Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri holds talks with key U.S. officials in Washington DC

The Hindu Bureau

U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Marco Rubio will visit India next month, U.S. envoy to India Sergio Gor announced. The visit comes as New Delhi and Washington attempt to keep the bilateral relationship on track after disagreements around trade and the U.S.-Israel war against Iran have complicated ties.

The U.S. Ambassador to India Mr. Gor welcomed Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to the White House, saying they had a productive meeting with Mr. Rubio which "focused on our bilateral relationship, especially trade, critical minerals, defense and the Quad [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue]". Mr. Misri has been in Washington from April 8-10 to hold discussions with administration officials on "a wide range of issues" as per the Ministry of External Affairs.

"Secretary Rubio looks forward to visiting India next month," said Mr. Gor. There was talk of New Delhi hosting the Quad Summit at the end of 2025 or early this year, with U.S. President Donald Trump potentially visiting India, but that has not been scheduled so far.



Vikram Misri during a meeting with Marco Rubio and U.S. envoy to India Sergio Gor in Washington DC. @INDIANEMBASSYUS/PTI

The Foreign Secretary on Thursday met separately with Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel. Mr. Misri and Mr. Landau "reaffirmed the close partnership between the two countries and shared news about the situation in the Persian Gulf and other global and regional priorities," according to a readout from the State Department.

India is navigating U.S. sanctions with regard to Iran's Chabahar Port, which India had helped develop, and the purchase of oil from Iran as well as Russia. A U.S. sanctions waiver on the purchase of Russian oil and petroleum products expires on Saturday, while exemptions for the purchase of Iranian oil expire on April 19. *The Hindu* has reached out to the U.S. Treasury for comments on whether there will be an extension to these measures.

Ms. Hooker met Mr. Misri "to discuss how we can work closer together on security, defense, and the economy," she said, naming the Quad specifically. "We are finding practical ways to make both Americans and Indians safer and more prosperous, including through the Quad." Mr. Patel and Mr. Misri discussed counterterrorism, organised crime and narcotics, according to the Indian Embassy in Washington DC.

Indian team to visit U.S.

Following a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, Mr. Gor announced that an Indian trade delegation would visit Washington at the end of April to take forward discussions on the trade deal.

Announcing that the U.S. administration looked forward to welcoming the Indian trade delegation, Mr. Gor said the U.S. and India had "previously agreed to a trade deal". While the outcomes of the deal had largely been agreed, the Trump administration has been in the process of changing the tariff structure for U.S. imports, following interventions by the U.S. Supreme Court, resulting in delays in finalising the deal. Additionally, *The Hindu* had reported in March that gaps remained in negotiating positions, including in the sensitive area of pulses.

Separately, Mr. Gor said there were "big things ahead for the U.S. and India as it relates to Pax Silica," referring to a U.S.-led initiative focused on semiconductors, critical minerals and AI. India joined the pact in February this year.

Jaishankar to visit UAE in bid to boost energy security

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Randhir Jaiswal said India is engaging Gulf countries, with ministerial visits to boost energy security

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit the United Arab Emirates on Saturday and Sunday, against the backdrop of the ongoing hostilities between the U.S., Israel, and Iran that has threatened India's energy security.

"We continue to reach out to countries in the Gulf region. At the direction of the Prime Minister, our Ministers are visiting Gulf countries to strengthen our energy security," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday.

"External Affairs Minister is presently visiting Mauritius from where he will be travelling to the UAE on 11th and 12th April. He will hold discussions with the leaders of the UAE to foster stronger India-UAE ties," Mr. Jaiswal said, explaining that India is helping its neighbours in South Asia while ensuring its own energy security.

The External Affairs Minister has been in contact with his counterparts in the region as well as in Iran over the course of the war that started on February 28.

His visit to the UAE will be a follow-up to the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri's visit to Qatar, which is one of the largest suppliers of natural gas to India. However, amid the escalating tensions, Iran attacked the facilities of QatarEnergy, one of the world's largest producers of natural gas. In March, it had invoked a force majeure clause, halting its production of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"My friend, H.E. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi has reaffirmed the State of Qatar's commitment to remain a reliable energy supplier and looked forward to continuing and strengthening energy relations and cooperation with India," Mr. Puri said, after his visit to Qatar.

The Centre's outreach has gained steam as U.S. President Donald Trump announced an uncertain ceasefire earlier this week. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal spoke with his Bahraini counterpart Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro on Thursday. "Our discussions on harnessing the significant opportunities in trade and investment to further elevate India-Bahrain relations, driving greater economic cooperation and shared prosperity," Mr. Goyal said.

SC confirms interim bail granted to journalist

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday confirmed or regularised the interim bail granted to journalist Mahesh Langa in a money laundering case linked to accusations of fraud against him.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the confirmation of the interim bail granted on December 15 last year should not be viewed as a comment on the merits of the case. While granting the interim bail, the top court had directed the special court to hear the case on a day-to-day basis for considering of charge and recording the statements of witnesses.

Firmly oppose targeting of civilians in war: Jaishankar

Suhasini Haidar
PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

India firmly opposes the "targeting of civilians and infrastructure" as well as the disruption of navigation due to the war in West Asia, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, inaugurating the 9th Indian Ocean Conference in Port Louis, which was over shadowed by the conflict and prospects for talks due to begin in Islamabad on Saturday.

Mr. Jaishankar, who was in Mauritius for a two-day visit before leaving for the United Arab Emirates on Friday night met with many leaders from the region, including the leadership of Mauritius, and his counterparts from Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Seychelles, and officials from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other Gulf countries present at the conference. Many delegates cancelled their attendance due to the conflict and travel disruptions. No delegate attended from the Maldives, as Mauritius and Maldives have suspended diplomatic ties over territorial differences over the Chagos Islands.

"All of us are deeply concerned about the conflict and would like to see an early return to normalcy," said Mr. Jaishankar, addressing the conference that included hundreds of delegates from various countries abutting the Indian Ocean. "We firmly oppose the targeting of civilians, of infrastructure and of commercial shipping, it is essential that navigation remains safe and unimpeded," he said, speaking about the direct economic impact of the conflict on energy, trade, fertilizers that had "overarching implications" for all societies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Mauritius PM Naveen Ramgoolam and others during the Indian Ocean Conference. ANI

Earlier, Mr. Jaishankar, who met with Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool and former Mauritius Prime Minister and Opposition leader Pravind Jugnauth, said India was "finalising" an agreement for the supply of oil and gas to Mauritius to strengthen its energy security amid the West Asia crisis. "The 2-week ceasefire that has been reached is still a fragile ceasefire. We must not allow ourselves to be lulled into complacency," said Mauritius PM Naveen Ramgoolam, speaking at the event.

Mr. Jaishankar also held his first meeting with Nepal Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal, who is part of the newly sworn in government headed by Prime Minister Balendra Shah, and met with Bhutan's Foreign Minister D.N. Dhungyel and Seychelles Foreign Minister Barry Faure and is understood to have discussed the current energy shortages and how India can help with each of them.

The strongest words at the event came from Oman Foreign Minister Badr Al Busaidi, who appeared via video link, and cancelled his visit to Mauritius due to travel disruptions and the start of talks between U.S. and Iran officials in Pakistan. In a speech, he called the U.S. and Israel's "initiation" of the conflict on February 28 "deplorable" and slammed the U.S.'s torpedoing of the *IRIS Dena* in the Indian Ocean, and also criticised Iran's blockade of Strait of Hormuz.

"We must prevent the Indian Ocean from becoming a point of conflict, hostility or zero sum competition," Mr. Al Busaidi, who was the mediator between U.S. and Iran when the U.S. and Israel began the conflict, said, adding: "Amid growing fragmentation in the global order, we must speak up in favour of justice when such rules are violated."

Bangladesh's new Foreign Minister Khalil Ur Rahman, who had visited Delhi and held talks with Mr. Jaishankar and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri before proceeding to the conference, said that "collective action" was needed to deal with the crisis, and called for "revitalising SAARC", the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation as well as other regional organisations.

BSF jawan killed in firing by Manipur militants

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Border Security Force jawan was killed in "unprovoked firing by militants" in Litan area of Manipur's Ukhrul district, the Manipur Police said on Friday. The deceased has been identified constable Mithun Mandal from Bhagjan Tola village, West Bengal.

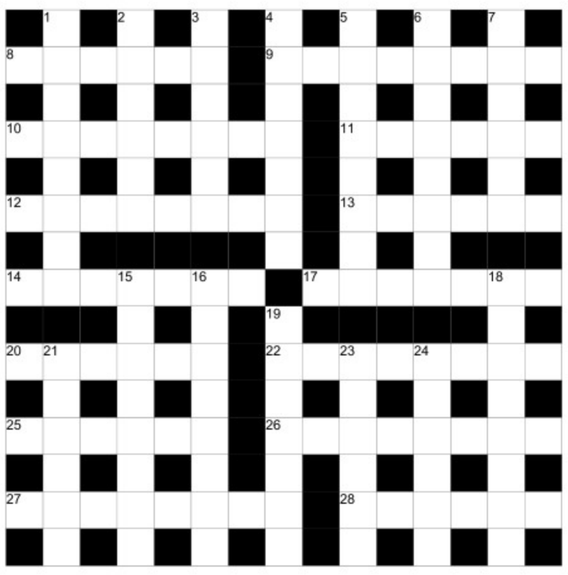
The police said "search operation and area domination by security forces is under way to nab the militants behind the attack." The Litan area has witnessed a wave of violence and arson between the Kuki and the Tangkhul Nagas since February 7, three days after the new Chief Minister was installed.

TH CROSSWORD + 14765

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8. Concerning brand, say (6)
9. Arab husband entertained by local American and fashionable Italian (8)
10. Study few drinking bit of mulligatawny soup (9)
11. Frequently lying around near Google's catchphrase (6)
12. According to Spooner, murderer composed a letter in Mac (8)
13. Control crazy boss checking employees on vacation (6)
14. City strips housing quarters (7)
17. Had story reading in workshop (7)
20. Fakes reports from Donald, say (6)
22. Assist in problem about Indian fast food (8)
25. Friend had amazing spiritual teacher (6)
26. Monkey smashing China cup (8)
27. Softer ballad without piano? That is right! (8)
28. Approach Argentine banking trust (6)

Down

1. So elated? Unexpectedly sad (8)
2. Chiefly pious Anglican rector sermonising and working! (6)
3. Amidst break, I'm bowling with arms bent (6)
4. Disapproves goals (7)
5. Gradually wind up shape (5,3)
6. Spark in extremely critical fair fixture (8)
7. Makes dough per auditor's requirements (6)
15. Say, driving license confiscated by force in mishap (8)
16. Overjoyed by each set captain regularly getting caught (8)
18. Student lacking education gets small income (8)
19. Enigmatic old boy's remedy (7)
21. Appropriates cup, essentially spiking rum initially in drinks (6)
23. Look for old darling touring clubs (6)
24. Basically. playful animated character munching and nibbling in game (6)

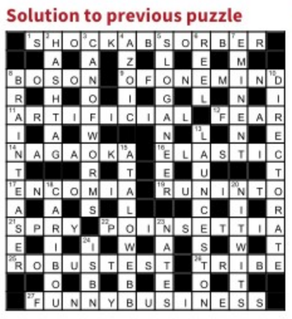
SUDOKU

	4		3			7		
	9		1	5	4			
		3		9				5
		8				6	2	
5				3				1
	6	7				4		
2				1		5		
			5	7	9		1	
		1			3		7	

No.SS6847 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	6	5	3	4	2	9	8
2	5	8	7	9	1	4	3	6
3	4	9	8	6	2	7	5	1
5	2	1	4	8	6	3	7	9
7	8	3	1	5	9	6	2	4
9	6	4	2	7	3	8	1	5
4	9	2	3	1	8	5	6	7
8	1	5	6	2	7	9	4	3
6	3	7	9	4	5	1	8	2

FAITH

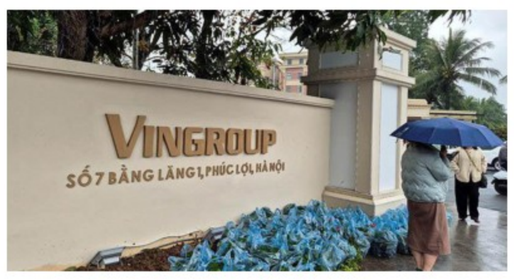
Controlling the mind

The human mind is a restless blend of past memories, future anxieties, and current desires. It is often likened to a "monkey" jumping from thought to thought. Natural human qualities such as desire, fear, attachment, and comparison drive this constant inner race. When desires go unmet, or we face the loss of what we are attached to, the mind suffers.

Sri Thannerpalli Krishnan Swamy explained the spiritual concept of *"Jalasandhi"* – the confluence of two rivers, or a river meeting the ocean – and compared it to a profound metaphor for the human condition. Water never stays still and always finds a way around obstacles. In the same way, the mind remains in a state of flux. At a confluence, separate streams merge into one current. Ideally, our diverse experiences and emotions should become a source of calm. Yet, humans are often distracted by bodily desires and lose sight of the higher purpose of birth.

Controlling the mind is difficult due to the three *gunas* (qualities) inherent in the body: *Sattva* (honesty and peace), *Rajas* (passion and anger), and *Tamas* (impatience and ignorance). According to the laws of Karma, humans often struggle with lower levels of *Sattva* and higher levels of *Rajas* and *Tamas*. This imbalance leads to *ahankara* (false ego). To overcome these spiritual hurdles and focus on the *atma* (soul), the scriptures suggest three primary paths. First, one must cultivate *Sattva guna*. Second, one should practise moderation in worldly affairs, maintaining just enough attachment to fulfil duties while focusing on spiritual growth. Finally, one should seek *"Acharya Parampara"* – the company and blessings of great teachers.

INBRIEF



Vingroup to explore $6.5 bn investment in Maharashtra

Vietnam's Vingroup on Friday said it has entered into an agreement with the Maharashtra government to explore investments worth about $6.5 billion across multiple sectors in the state. The company has signed an MOU with the Maharashtra government, establishing a collaborative framework to explore strategic investments across multiple sectors in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and broader Maharashtra, Vingroup said in a statement. PTI

Benchmark indices rebound over 1%, extend relief rally

Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex 30 rebounded over 1%, closing at 24,050.60 and 77,550.25 points respectively on Friday, extending the relief rally since Wednesday after the U.S. and Iran agreed on a ceasefire. Sensex jumped 918.60 points, or 1.20%, to settle at 77,550.25. During the day, it surged 990.85 points, or 1.29% to 77,622.50. A total of 3,360 stocks advanced while 945 declined and 144 remained unchanged on the BSE.

British Airways ramps up services to India for summer

British Airways said it is expanding India-U.K. capacity, adding more than 7,000 weekly seats amid a 196% surge in searches and disruptions via Gulf hubs. The airline will operate up to 70 weekly India-London Heathrow flights. Bengaluru will get a second daily service, while Delhi and Mumbai will see third daily frequencies for an extended period. Hyderabad will see deployment of a larger Boeing 777 aircraft.

Govt. examining compliance burden on MSMEs due to war

MSME exporters don't have the resources to keep on top of constantly changing tariffs, penalties, and procedures brought on by shipping disruptions and delays, say exporters, industry bodies

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday announced that it had held two inter-ministerial meetings to discuss the various issues being faced by exporters in light of the West Asia crisis.

According to exporters, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India are especially struggling under not just the financial impact of the war in West Asia, but also due to a significant increase in their compliance burden and paperwork due to shipments being rerouted or returned to India.

"The situation that is arising in the Middle East, there's a lot of chaos in the system right now because you are not getting clarity on a number of things," Imtiyaz Khatib, Vice-President of Product Management at Avalara India, a compliance solutions provider lamented.

One of the government's meetings was under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary and another was co-chaired by the Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and the Commerce Secretary.

Both were attended by senior officials, port authorities, shipping agencies, export promotion councils (EPCs), industry representatives, and other stakeholders. "If routes are getting deviated and shipments delayed, then what kind of excise duties, tariffs, and penalties do you have to pay," Mr. Khatib asked. "So, you're not getting a complete idea of what your total landed cost would be and that's where there's a lot of complications and challenges, which our MSMEs are trying to overcome to stay compliant within the system."

A large part of the problem is that MSMEs don't have the resources to hire large compliance teams or use specialised software.

"Unlike large companies, MSMEs do not have dedicated compliance teams," K.E. Raghunathan, National Chairman of the Association of Indian Entrepreneurs, explained.

"The entrepreneur is now burdened with navigating regulatory uncertainty, leading to higher costs, delayed shipments, and severe working capital stress."

"If this continues, India risks losing export competitiveness at the MSME level, where agility should have been our biggest strength," Mr. Raghunathan added.

Mr. Khatib further explained that most MSMEs use Microsoft Excel spreadsheets for their work because they cannot invest in systems that have everything inbuilt, including invoice and HS code management, master lists of all the duties and taxes, etc. "MSMEs mostly rely on fragmented systems that they're managing in different places," he said. This, he added, makes tracking changes and making corrections a time-consuming, error-prone, and tedious affair.

Pankaj Chadha, the chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) and an affected exporter himself, explained that there are three different types of disruptions MSMEs are facing due to the war in West Asia.

The first kind of issue is when the cargo is diverted back to India. It has to then either be stored in a warehouse or the exporter has to then begin the 'back-to-town' procedure and take it back to their factory.

"Now, that procedure itself can be quite challenging and imposes quite a compliance burden," Mr. Chadha said. "Remember, also, for back-to-town cargo, you get nothing under the RELIEF scheme [announced by the government]."

The second kind of issue exporters are facing is when their shipments get routed to a different port due to safety concerns.

"The shipping company says its job is done, and that it is for the exporter to figure out how to take the cargo from there to the destination," Mr. Chadha said. The third factor is that many destinations, especially in Europe, have tariff quotas for particular products, such as steel.

These quotas open once every quarter, such as on April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1. Those quotas get filled within the first day itself, Mr. Chadha said.

"So, if a shipment reaches those ports even a few days late, then they have to wait nearly 90 days before the quota is opened again," he explained.

"All of this again means warehousing, which is not only a huge economic cost, but is also a compliance burden."

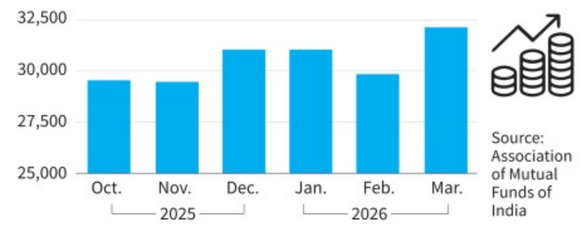
Triple whammy

There are three different types of disruptions MSMEs face due to the West Asia conflict

- When a cargo is diverted back, it has to be stored in a warehouse or taken back to the factory
- When shipments get routed to a different port, it is left to the exporter to figure out the next step
- Many destinations have tariff quotas for particular products which get filled within the first day itself

Increased inflows

Overall monthly contribution through the Systematic Investment Plans (SIP) increased 7% in March 2026, compared with the month-ago period. (Figures in ₹ crore)



Source: Association of Mutual Funds of India

Investors back to SIP despite March Nifty returns dip

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Investors have returned to their monthly systematic investment plans (SIP), with the overall contribution increasing 7% to ₹32,087 crore in March 2026, as against a decline in the previous month, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI). The recovery comes in even as Nifty 50 returns fell 11% in the reporting month.

SIP contributions had decreased 3.73% to ₹29,845 crore in February 2026, and had stagnated at ₹31,002 crore in January 2026 and December 2025, reflecting investor panic on account of several headwinds including falling returns due to FIIs' exodus, rupee depreciation, AI scare and the West Asia conflict. The number of contributing SIP accounts also increased 2.8% to 9.7 crore in March on a low base of a 4.8% dip in February 2026.

With this increase, the headline numbers are inching closer to the December 2025 levels.

While the overall numbers increased, the average SIP installment jumped to ₹3,300 in March 2026, 4% more than the two-year average of ₹3,167 a month. While this could mean that people are topping up their SIPs due to confidence in the market, the number of discontinued /tenure-completed SIPs increased 6% to 53 lakh accounts.

Barring a couple of months, contributing SIPs did not increase at a rate faster than 2% on a month-on-month basis in the past year, which may suggest that the more well-off have continued investing, while those who were investing smaller amounts a month reduced. To be sure, this too is on a low base of a 9% decline in discontinued SIPs in the month before. Registration of new SIPs too were at 52 lakh, which means every exiting SIP now has a new SIP. Further, new SIP registrations dipped for the second consecutive month.

'Induction cooking to raise power demand'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Induction cooking saw spikes in mornings and evenings.

Induction-based cooking is expected to raise demand for electricity in the range of 13 to 27 gigawatts (GW) at the distribution level, Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) stated at the daily inter-ministerial briefing about the situation in West Asia here Friday.

"We are expecting the extra additional demand [depending] on low and high induction cooking adoption," he said, adding, "We are yet to see. We are analysing and positioning ourselves on a proactive basis." Further, he said, the ongoing transition to induction stove-based cooking peaks in the morning and evening hours with usage patterns depending upon different climatic zones, cooking habits and socio-economic patterns.

The Hindu earlier reported induction stove and microwave oven sales spiked as much as 50% since the government flagged supply concerns over LPG on Iran-U.S.-Israel war.

RBI issues draft NBFC upper-layer review

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

RBI had been silent on Tata Sons' listing; revised norms to be announced soon can make position clear

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invited public comments on the draft amendment directions on review of methodology for identification of NBFC-UL (Non-Banking Finance Company-Upper Layer) and inclusion of Government owned NBFCs in the category.

The Scale Based Regulatory (SBR) Framework for NBFCs prescribes a two-pronged methodology for identification of NBFC-UL viz., top ten eligible NBFCs by asset size and parametric scoring methodology.

To adopt a simple and absolute criteria for identification of NBFC-UL, it is proposed to replace the existing methodology with asset-size criteria, now proposed as ₹1,00,000 crore and above.

"It is proposed to consider eligible Government owned NBFCs also for inclusion in the list of NBFC-UL based on the revised criteria," the RBI said.

As per this norm, Tata Sons was to be listed last year as it was named among 15 NBFC-ULs. But to avoid listing, it had surrendered it's NBFC lisence.

The RBI had been silent on Tata Sons' listing. The revised norms to be announced soon can make it's position clear.

AIC C.V. RAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FOUNDATION
TENDER NOTICE

The Director **"ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE - CV RAMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FOUNDATION"** referred to as **AIC- CVRCEF**, Bidyanagar, Mahura, Janla, Bhubaneswar-752054, Odisha invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of various AR/VR and Future Mobility laboratory items. The EMD is **Rs.2.93 Lakh** (exemption as per rules). The complete set of tender documents may be downloaded from its website **(www.aiccgu.com)** Or the same can be collected from the office. For any clarification contact **9040930307** or **7003302791**.

Sd/- **Dr S N Rao Shroff (CEO, AIC-CVRCEF)**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM-A (SALE EXTENSION)

No:SHAR:CMG CIVIL: MAINT: E-PublicTender-18(A)/25-26 Dt: 09.04.2026

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-18/25-26 dated 18.03.2026 **"Readiness of 150 nos.of vacant / under repair Qtrs in PHC-I & II, SDSC"** (T/C-25-068, Est cost ₹ 89.79 Lakhs; **"Supplying & fixing shamiyana and its accessories on hire basis at SDSC for the year 2026-2027"** (T/C-25-070, Est cost ₹ 13.71 Lakhs ;

Sale period extended up to 23.04.2026

Interested tenderer may visit **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details. Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA
Maquinez Palace, Old GMC Precinct, Campal, Panaji-Goa.
Ph no: 0832-2428111 Email: info@esg.co.in

Ref no: ESG/PR/26-27/GenAdvt/13974 **Date:10/04/2026**

E-Tender Notice

The Entertainment Society of Goa, Panaji-Goa invites Tenders for the work of "Appointment of Agency for Conceptualization, Design, Installation & Operation of high-definition Light & Sound show at Mandovi River Promenade, Panaji - Centered on the iconic statue of Bhagwan Parshuram. (Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti)."

For detailed Advertisement visit:- www.esg.co.in

DI/ADVT/78/2026

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board ADB
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Government of Himachal Pradesh

P57133-001-Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh (ADB Funded)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date of publication: 16.04.2026

1. The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB) under Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh ("the Employer"), invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system "Open Competitive bidding (OCB), One Stage Two envelop (1S2E)" for the under mentioned work from the eligible Bidders.
2. The details of Contract Package are as follow:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security (INR)	Document Download Start and time	Pre-bid Meeting (online/ offline)	Deadline for submission/ opening of technical bid and time
1.	"Rafting Complex and Way Side Amenities at Nadaun, Distt. Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh Contract Package Invitation for Bids No. SITDP-HP_W07/2026/.	6.33 million	16.04.2026 at 18:00 Hrs	24.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs	08.05.2026 i) Deadline of Submission- 15:00 Hrs ii) Technical Bid Opening - 16:00 Hrs
2.	Period of completion.	24 months			

3. **Availability of Bid Document. Key dates, mode of submission and all other details:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website **https://hptenders.gov.in**.
4. Date of Opening of Financial Bids (Will be later intimated to all technically responsive bidders).

(--SD--)
The Project Director
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Shanti Bhawan, Phase-3, Sector -6,
Kangnadhar, BCS, Shimla-171009, HP, India
Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, 2659925
Email: projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com,
Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

2026-137

Shapoorji Pallonji Group again demands listing of Tata Sons

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Listing will unlock value for the shareholders, says the Group.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which holds more than 18% stake in Tata Sons, reiterated demand for listing of Tata Sons as per norms announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amid the central bank getting ready with category norms for NBFCs.

In a statement, Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry, chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji Group said, "As stated earlier, we would like to reiterate a timely listing of Tata Sons is not merely a regulatory compliance but a necessary evolution. One that will reinforce corporate governance, deepen transparency and accountability. These form the very foundation of the Tata Group."

"To date, no clear, evidence-based case has been presented to explain how a public listing would materially damage the interests of the trusts or reduce their ability to serve beneficiaries," he said.

"The listing of Tata Sons is fundamentally in the public interest. A publicly listed holding company strengthens board accountability, broadens the investor base, and secures long-term value for all stakeholders. Besides, listing will unlock value for millions of retail shareholders, create a more defined and robust dividend stream for the Tata Trusts and expand the social and philanthropic impact that benefits the poorest sections of our country," he added.

"This group built on trust, integrity and public purpose will be strengthened through complying with RBI-mandated listing. We look towards the RBI for a decisive direction with regards to the listing."

Absorbed rise in input prices, says Coal India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To shield consumers from a price hike as input costs spiked amid the war, Coal India said it absorbed price shocks of ammonium nitrate - which rose 44% and diesel which rose 54%.

"The rise in ammonium nitrate cost had a direct bearing on the cost of explosives Coal India uses in large quantities in blasting operations to expose coal seams," it stated.

As a result, average cost of explosives shot up by around 26% from ₹39,588 per metric ton in February this year to ₹49,783 per metric ton by March-end.

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bengaluru – 560055. Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date : 10.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl.No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last date of submission
1	KSDL/2026-27/IND1211	Procurement of Guaiacwood Oil	7800 Kgs	09.04.2026	24.04.2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/IND1212	Procurement of Sandal Mysore Core (SMC)	17300 Kgs	09.04.2026	24.04.2026
3	KSDL/2026-27/IND1213	Procurement of Diethyl Phthalate (DEP)	273000 Kgs	09.04.2026	24.04.2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/IND1214	Procurement of Super Santol	50900 Kgs	09.04.2026	11.05.2026
5	KSDL/2026-27/IND1215	Procurement of Patchouli Oil	17600 Kgs	09.04.2026	11.05.2026
6	KSDL/2026-27/IND1216	Procurement of Amyris Oil	13200 Kgs	09.04.2026	24.04.2026
7	KSDL/2026-27/IND1218	Procurement of Tetramethyl perhydronaptho furan Ambroxan	900 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026
8	KSDL/2026-27/IND1219	Procurement of Coumarin crystals	29500 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026
9	KSDL/2026-27/IND1220	Procurement of Clove Leaf Oil	45900 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026
10	KSDL/2026-27/IND1221	Procurement of Habanolide/Globalide	8300 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026
11	KSDL/2026-27/IND1222	Procurement of Citronellol	25700 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026
12	KSDL/2026-27/IND1223	Procurement of Geranium Oil	8500 Kgs	10.04.2026	14.05.2026

For any queries contact the undersigned

Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

ANKARA

Aid convoy heads from Turkiye to Iran to address humanitarian crisis

AFP

The Red Cross and Turkiye's Red Crescent on Friday dispatched an emergency humanitarian aid convoy from Turkiye to Iran, as the organisation warned of a "desperate" humanitarian situation in the country. The Turkish Red Crescent has also sent four trucks carrying 48 tonnes of aid, including hygiene kits and first-aid supplies. AFP

BEIJING

Chinese and Taiwanese will unite, Xi tells Taiwan Opposition leader

AFP

China's President Xi Jinping met Taiwan's Opposition party leader Cheng Li-wun in Beijing on Friday, telling the visiting delegation he had "full confidence" that Taiwanese and Chinese people would be united. Kuomintang (KMT) chairperson Ms. Cheng is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade. AFP

HOUSTON

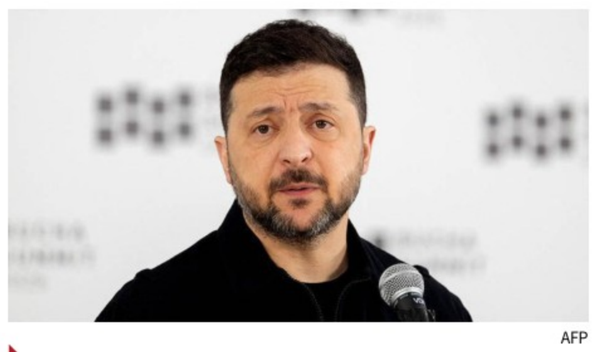
Artemis II astronauts hurtle home from Moon toward splashdown

REUTERS

The four Artemis II astronauts, returning from the world's first crewed Moon voyage in over half a century, hurtled back toward Earth on Friday aboard Orion spacecraft, headed for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off Southern California. If all goes well, they will end up bobbing safely in the ocean off San Diego coast. REUTERS

KYIV

Ukrainian forces shot down Shahed drones in West Asia, says Zelenskyy



AFP

Ukrainian military personnel have shot down Iranian-designed Shahed drones in multiple West Asian countries during the Iran war, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, describing the operations as part of a broader effort to help partners counter the same weapons used by Russia in Ukraine. AP

Vance warns Iran not to 'play' U.S. at talks as he departs for Pakistan

Despite a temporary truce between U.S. and Iran, both sides continue to accuse each other of violating ceasefire terms; Iran insists that Israel's attacks in Lebanon violate the ceasefire; the U.S. delegation arrives today amid tight security in Islamabad

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance warned Iran on Friday against trying to "play" Washington, as he set off for talks in Islamabad aimed at transforming a fragile ceasefire into a lasting peace deal.

Despite the temporary truce struck between the foes, deep disagreements remain as to the way forward, and both sides have accused the other of failing to properly implement the current agreement.

"If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand," Mr. Vance told presspersons before taking off from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

Strict watch: Pakistani soldiers stand guard near the President House in Islamabad on Friday, ahead of 'Islamabad Talks'. AFP

But "if they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find the negotiating team is not that receptive", he said.

Since the ceasefire took effect, U.S. President Donald Trump has voiced displeasure at Iran's handling of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which was meant to be reopened, while Tehran has reacted angrily to Israeli attacks in Lebanon, insisting that it too falls under the agreement.

Official sources say the talks in Islamabad will cover several sensitive points, including Iran's nuclear enrichment and the free flow of trade through the strait.

While Pakistan had said the discussions would start on Friday, the U.S. delegation, including Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner and Mr. Vance, is not expected to arrive until Saturday.

Security corridor

All routes leading to the Serena Hotel, the expected venue, were blocked off with heavy security, while a large banner and digital signs along the expressway heralded the "Islamabad Talks".

Iran has suggested that its participation could hinge on a halt to Israeli attacks on Lebanon: "The holding of talks to end the war is dependent on the U.S. adhering to its ceasefire commitments on all fronts, especially in Lebanon," said Esmaeil Baqaei, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Iranian officials have said the Israeli strikes had rendered the Pakistan talks "meaningless".

Nevertheless, Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards signalled they were committing to the ceasefire and had "not launched anything at any country", according to the state broadcaster.

In a barrage of social media posts that sparked fears for the shaky truce, Mr. Trump on Thursday accused Iran of doing a "very poor job" of allowing oil through the Strait of Hormuz and of breaching the terms of their ceasefire agreement.

'Israeli strike in Lebanon kills 13 security personnel'

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

An Israeli strike, one of multiple on the southern Lebanese city of Nabatiyeh on Friday, killed at least 13 State Security personnel, a source from the government agency said, as Lebanon prepared to start ceasefire talks with Israel.

Naim Qassem, head of Iran-backed party and armed group Hezbollah, called on the Lebanese state to stop giving "free concessions" to Israel, with the two governments due to begin negotiations next week to end the war that has left nearly 1,900 people in Lebanon dead.

The government banned Hezbollah's military activities at the beginning of the latest war with Israel in March and is moving towards bilateral negotiations with Israel despite the opposition of Hezbollah, which is represented in the Cabinet and Parliament.

Demonstrators attend a protest against the direct talks between the Israel and Lebanese government, in Beirut on Friday. REUTERS

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) said "enemy warplanes launched a series of heavy strikes" on Nabatiyeh, including one in the vicinity of the government complex hitting the State Security office.

"The Israeli enemy has failed on the battlefield... It has been unable to carry out the ground invasion it repeatedly announced," Mr. Qassem said, adding that "the resistance will continue until the last breath".

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said that Hezbollah fired around 30 projectiles from Lebanon into Israel on Friday, reporting that some strikes caused damage. Israeli emergency services reported strikes in Safed, where a direct hit damaged several vehicles, and in the Galilee region where a building was hit.

Iran does not seek war, says Mojtaba in written message

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in his latest written message that the Islamic republic did not want war with the United States and Israel, but would protect its rights as a nation, state television reported on Thursday.

"We did not seek war and we do not want it," he said in the message read out on state TV, weeks after his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed on February 28, the first day of the war.

"But we will not renounce our legitimate rights under any circumstances, and in this respect, we consider the entire resistance front as a whole," he added, in an apparent reference to Lebanon where Israel is fighting with Tehran's ally Hezbollah.

Iran this week agreed to a fragile two-week ceasefire with the U.S. that could lead to peace negotiations after threats of annihilation from U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Your voices in public squares are undoubtedly influential in the outcome of the negotiations," Mr. Khamenei told Iranians, according to the message broadcast on state TV.

Citizens' right

A voter proceeds to cast her ballot at a primary school serving as a polling station during the 2026 presidential elections, in Djibouti on Friday. Longtime leader Ismail Omar Guelleh is expected to secure a sixth term in office after lawmakers scrapped presidential age limits. AFP

Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar junta chief, sworn in as President

Agence France-Presse
NAYPYIDAW

Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was sworn in as President on Friday, continuing his rule from a civilian post five years after snatching power in a military coup.

As the nation's armed forces chief, Min Aung Hlaing ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021 – detaining the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and triggering a civil war.

"Myanmar has returned to the path of democracy and is heading toward a better future," the 69-year-old said in a speech, after reading aloud the presidential oath to start his five-year term at a triumphant parliamentary ceremony in the capital, Naypyidaw.

Min Aung Hlaing

Democracy watchdogs deride the transition as a rebranding of military rule in an unconvincing civilian disguise.

Cuba is open to dialogue with U.S., but leadership is non-negotiable: envoy

Srinivasan Ramani
CHENNAI

Cuba is open to dialogue with the United States but will not negotiate its political system or leadership as part of any deal, Cuba's Ambassador to India, Juan Carlos Marsan, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Marsan described the devastating impact of the U.S. oil blockade on Cuban life while making clear that Havana's red lines in ongoing negotiations with Washington are non-negotiable.

"The political system and the composition of the Cuban government are not on the table," he said. "It belongs to the Cuban people to define what kind of society we would like to live in, and who are the appropriate people to lead our country."

The Ambassador painted a grim picture of conditions on the island following President Trump's January 29 executive order blocking oil supplies to Cuba. The country, which produces only 20% of the oil it needs, went three months without receiving a single energy shipment in three months before Russia sent supplies through the crude tanker *Anatoly Kolodkin*.

The electricity grid collapsed three times in a single month. More than 100,000 patients are waiting for surgery that hospitals cannot perform due to power shortages, he said, adding that over two million people lack regular water supply. 40% of Cuba's productive agricultural land lies fallow because there is insufficient fuel for irrigation, he added.

'Unprecedented limits'

"We never faced this challenge before," Mr. Marsan said, noting that while the U.S. embargo has been in place for over 65 years, the Trump administration has pushed it to "unprecedented limits" – with more than 240 coercive measures in his first term and over 100 additional ones in the current term.

The Ambassador was sharply critical of Secretary of State Marco Rubio,

> Cuba is not a piece of cake that you can take. Cuba is a nation, very proud of its history. The people will defend their homeland
>
> **JUAN CARLOS MARSAN**
> Cuban Ambassador to India

who has called for regime change in Cuba. Mr. Marsan noted that Mr. Rubio's parents left Cuba for the U.S. in 1956, three years before the Revolution, and that he "has always been connected to extreme right-wing groups in Miami" and "developed his entire political career supporting the war against Cuba". On Mr. Trump's repeated statements about "taking Cuba," the Ambassador was blunt: "Cuba is not a piece of cake that you can take. Cuba is a nation, very proud of its history. The people will defend their homeland."

On Venezuela, Mr. Marsan described the loss of Cuba's principal oil supplier following the U.S. military capture of President Nicolás Maduro as a deliberate strategy to strangle the island. He acknowledged that Russia's recent delivery of 100,000 tonnes of crude oil was a critical lifeline, and that Mexico had continued to provide humanitarian support despite U.S. pressure.

Pragmatic measures

The Ambassador outlined Cuba's economic reform efforts, including opening sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism, and energy to foreign investment, and allowing Cubans abroad to invest in private businesses on the island. He described these as pragmatic measures rather than concessions. "The first responsibility of the Cuban state is to upgrade the social conditions of the Cuban people," he said. He specifically invited Indian companies to participate as partners, particularly in renewable energy, where Cuba has a transition strategy extending to 2045.

On the broader geopolitical picture, Mr. Marsan warned that the U.S. campaign against Cuba was part of a pattern. "Yesterday it was Venezuela, today it is Iran, tomorrow it could be Cuba – what would be next?" he said, calling on Global South nations to unite in defence of international law and multilateralism.

He urged Latin American and Caribbean countries to consolidate through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to resist what he described as the reimposition of the Monroe Doctrine.

While confirming that Cuba is at the dialogue table with U.S. authorities, the Ambassador said the talks could cover areas of mutual benefit such as counter-narcotics cooperation, combating human trafficking, and environmental protection but not Cuba's political order. "We are not saying that President Trump should not be leading his country, or that his Secretary of State should be another one. This dialogue should be based on mutual respect and equality."

TOP PRIORITY

Disciplined daily routines key to avoiding injuries for pacers: Ashok

FILE PHOTO

If you are a fast bowler, injuries will happen. You can only avoid them by sleeping on time, focusing on your recovery and diet. What I follow is doing things on time. I follow my daily routine strictly. There is no compromise on a gym or pool session — Gujarat Titans fast bowler Ashok Sharma.

NEW SIGNING

Super Giants pick Linde as replacement for Hasaranga

FILE PHOTO

Lucknow Super Giants has signed South Africa all-rounder George Linde as a replacement for Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga, who has been ruled out of the ongoing IPL due to an injury. This will be Linde's maiden stint in the IPL. He will join the Lucknow-based franchise at his base price of ₹1 crore.

OWNING UP

Criticism is fair when you're not doing well, says Fleming

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Criticism is fair when you're not doing well; that's part of the position, and the results dictate that. We were off the pace last year. [Mine will be] the first hand up. Now, we've got some younger players, and I'm confident about this group — Head coach Stephen Fleming after CSK's three straight defeats to open IPL 2026.

HAPPY PLACE

It's unusual and I'm very grateful: Fleming on his long stint with CSK

FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

It's unusual, and I'm very grateful. We have been able to operate at a consistent level that has allowed the franchise to put faith in the coaching group. We're proud of what we achieved, but not satisfied. There is a desire to keep adding — CSK head coach Stephen Fleming on his long-term association with the team.

Suryavanshi, Jurel power RR to fourth straight win

The opener's blistering 78 off 26 balls sets up the chase while the No. 3 batter guides the Rajasthan outfit home with a superb unbeaten 81 off 43 deliveries; RCB skipper Patidar's heroics go in vain

IPL-19

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GUWAHATI

Dazzling duo: Suryavanshi tore into the RCB bowlers from the outset before the calm Jurel finished off the chase. RITU RAJ KONWAR

If Jasprit Bumrah gets it, can Josh Hazlewood be far behind?

Hazlewood, on his return from injury, got a taste of wunderkind Vaibhav Suryavanshi's fearless batting in a 'royal' IPL match on a slightly damp Friday night. The Aussie quick, who has 516 wickets in international cricket, went for 4,4,4,6: those were the first four balls he bowled to the left-handed prodigy.

The 15-year-old had hit Bumrah's first ball for a six in the last match at the same venue. If this is what he could do to Hazlewood and Bumrah, imagine what the lesser bowlers might be thinking of at the prospect of bowling to him.

Perfect record

Suryavanshi's stunning 78 off just 26 balls (8x4, 7x6) in front of a full house at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium ensured Rajasthan Royals' dream start continued. The six-wicket victory against Royal Challengers Bengaluru was RR's fourth on the trot. And it was RCB's first defeat after two wins in a row: its 201 for eight was chased down by the Royals with two overs to spare.

Though Survyavanshi's dismissal triggered a mini-collapse, No. 3 Dhruv Jurel (81 n.o., 43b, 8x4, 3x6) got the host home with a brilliant knock. The Royals had lost three wickets for the addition of five runs, but the wicketkeeper found an able ally in Ravindra Jadeja (24 n.o., 25b, 1x4). They added 68 for the unbroken fifth wicket.

Jurel was content to be a spectator while Suryavanshi was putting on yet another dazzling display of batsmanship – his contribution was just three when the second-wicket partnership reached 50 – but he paced his innings perfectly to ace the chase.

Earlier, it was a captain's innings from Rajat Patidar (63, 40b, 4x4, 4x6) that took RCB a competitive score. Jofra Archer got the first ball of the match to climb into Phil Salt, who ballooned a catch behind the stumps.

Then leggie Ravi Bishnoi bowled Virat Kohli (32, 16b, 7x4) through the gate. Cameos from Romario Shepherd and Venkatesh Iyer helped, but the night belonged to Suryavanshi and Jurel.

Prized scalp: Bishnoi, right, castled Kohli. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Next assignment

RCB: April 12 vs. MI Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

RR: April 13 vs. SRH Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Phil Salt c Jurel b Archer 0 *(1b)*, Virat Kohli b Bishnoi 32 *(16b, 7x4)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Hetmyer b Archer 14 *(7b, 3x4)*, Rajat Patidar c Ferreira b Sandeep 63 *(40b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Krunal Pandya c Hetmyer b Bishnoi 1 *(6b)*, Jitesh Sharma lbw b Brijesh 5 *(8b)*, Tim David c Hetmyer b Brijesh 13 *(9b, 2x4)*, Romario Shepherd c Brijesh b Jadeja 22 *(11b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer **(Impact Player for Padikkal)** (not out) 29 (15b, 1x4, 2x6), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 9 (7b, 1x4); Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-7): 13; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Salt, 0.1 over), 2-45 (Padikkal, 2.6), 3-58 (Kohli, 4.5), 4-62 (Krunal, 6.2), 5-76 (Jitesh, 8.4), 6-94 (David, 10.6), 7-125 (Shepherd, 13.6), 8-166 (Patidar, 17.1).

ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 3-0-33-2, Burger 3-0-32-0, Sandeep 4-0-47-1, Bishnoi 4-0-32-2, Jadeja 2-0-14-1, Brijesh 4-0-37-2.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Jitesh b Hazlewood 13 *(8b, 2x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi **(Impact Player for Sandeep)** c Kohli b Krunal 78 *(26b, 8x4, 7x6)*, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 81 *(43b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Hazlewood b Krunal 0 *(1b)*, Riyan Parag c Krunal b Hazlewood 3 *(5b)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 24 *(25b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 18 overs): 202.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Jaiswal, 1.6), 2-129 (Suryavanshi, 8.1), 3-129 (Hetmyer, 8.2), 4-134 (Parag, 9.4).

RCB BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-37-0, Hazlewood 4-0-44-2, Abhinandan 3-0-54-0, Krunal 4-0-30-2, David 1-0-18-0, Shepherd 2-0-18-0.

Toss: Royals.

PoM: Suryavanshi.

Royals won by six wickets with two overs to spare.

Struggling CSK takes on DC, looks to snap losing streak

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Legend's lessons: Hussey interacts with Sarfaraz, one of Super Kings' few bright spots. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Pakistan great Imran Khan famously called on his team to act like 'cornered tigers' after three losses in the first five matches of the 1992 World Cup. They eventually went all the way.

Though Chennai Super Kings' mascot is a lion, Ruturaj Gaikwad and his men might need to invoke a similar spirit to revive their faltering IPL-19 campaign. Seeking to open its account when it takes on Delhi Capitals at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Saturday, a battered and bruised CSK desperately requires a dose of brilliance to stem the tide.

Worrying signs

More than the three losses, the manner in which the five-time champion has been outplayed has set off alarm bells.

After a false start in the opening encounter against Rajasthan Royals, the batting line-up redeemed itself to an extent in the last two outings.

Ruturaj and Sanju Samson's lean run, though, is a cause for concern. Head coach Stephen Fleming said that Dewald Brevis was not far away from making a return, and if the South African is fit for the DC game, he will add stability to the middle-order.

The bigger worry is on the bowling front as CSK lacks bite, and there is little the franchise can do given the thin stocks. The available resources, however, can be optimised better.

Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein is an option to replace the out-of-form Noor Ahmad – the West Indian can bowl in the PowerPlay, lending flexibility to the skipper.

DC will want to quickly move on from the heartbreaking one-run loss to Gujarat Titans in its previous fixture. David Miller's decision to refuse a single off the penultimate delivery proved costly, and the southpaw will look to make amends.

As a whole, the Axar Patel-led side will focus on avoiding losing wickets in a cluster. Despite the defeat to GT, there were positives, with K.L. Rahul getting back among the runs.

Today's matches

New Chandigarh, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 24
PBKS 7 | SRH 17
PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by eight wickets, 2025

Chennai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
CSK 19 | DC 12
PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by 25 runs, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Natarajan recalls DC management's help

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Natarajan. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

There's something about T. Natarajan and injuries. The yorker specialist's rise from obscurity to prominence was swift but untimely fitness issues have haunted him.

Now plying his trade for Delhi Capitals in the IPL, the 35-year-old left-arm pacer said that he had suffered an injury whenever he was doing well.

"Every year when I was doing well, there has been some injury or the other...," he told reporters on the eve of the match against Chennai Super Kings at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here.

Natarajan said the Capitals management and coaching staff had taken good care of him as he attempted to bounce back from injury.

"Last year, I was suffering from an injury. The DC management took very good care of me. Coach (Hemang) Badani *sir* used to talk a lot to me. I attended camps in Delhi, Surat, Hyderabad. I trained in Dubai also. That was a good experience for me and helped me regain my rhythm," he said.

Coming back from injury is not easy, he said and added that the motivation from various quarters helped the recovery.

IPL 2026 has gone well for him so far. "By God's grace, things have been good," said Natarajan, who has taken four wickets from three games, including three for 29 against Lucknow Super Giants.

Natarajan said fighting back after being reported for suspect action early in his career was his toughest challenge. "Coming back from injuries is difficult. But... suspect action, after I came back from that I was confident of facing any situation.

"For the last six-seven months I have worked very hard on my bowling and fitness to get back my yorkers and regain my rhythm. My confidence is high now and my aim is to give 100%."

Natarajan will hope injuries don't chase him as his career gathers pace again.

Kings, Sunrisers face off in a battle of big-hitters

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

Flexing his muscles: Stoinis could be key to PBKS' chances. PTI

Punjab Kings is the team in form. Sunrisers Hyderabad, not so much.

Does it mean that PBKS, with two wins and a No Result, starts as the heavy favourite against SRH – it has one victory in three games – when the two sides clash in an IPL match at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Saturday? Not really.

A glance at the scorecard of their last meeting – in Hyderabad on April 12, 2025 – provides context. Sunrisers, coming off a four-match losing streak, hunted down the 246-run target with eight wickets and nine balls to spare, thanks to a 55-ball 141 from Abhishek Sharma.

Since then, not much has changed in terms of personnel in the Sunrisers batting line-up. In fact, it has only added firepower with the acquisition of Liam Livingstone.

It is this reputation that keeps SRH alive in any contest. Abhishek's whirlwind knock is still fresh in PBKS batter Shashank Singh's mind. On the lessons learnt from that game, Shashank said: "Abhishek's innings in Hyderabad that day is one of the best I've ever seen in the IPL. We look at videos to see what lengths we could've bowled, but not in a way where we stress on the result. There is no hard-and-fast rule that this is how we analyse a match, but we do take learnings from every game."

This is where PBKS will rely on skipper Shreyas Iyer's experience. The 31-year-old will do well to guide the young willow-wielders on the approach needed to outscore a batting-heavy Sunrisers.

Another factor is dew being out of the equation in this afternoon fixture, and it should empower SRH medium-pacers Jaydev Unadkat and Harshal Patel to use their biggest weapons – cutters and change of pace – more effectively.

Past results suggest that SRH holds the aces against PBKS – the Hyderabad side boasts a 17-7 win-loss record. The question remains: will history trump recent form?

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	4	4	0	0	8	2.055
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	3	2	1	0	4	1.231
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	0.811
Lucknow Super Giants	3	2	1	0	4	-0.359
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Gujarat Titans	3	1	2	0	2	-0.270
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

INBRIEF

Ayush pulls off an upset win over Christie, enters semis

India's Ayush Shetty produced the biggest win of his career, stunning World No. 4 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 23-21, 21-17 to enter the men's singles semifinals of the Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China, on Friday.

Joseph show helps Delhi crush NEUFC

A clinical second-half performance, led by Joseph Sunny's brace, helped SC Delhi earn a 3-0 victory over NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League game in Guwahati on Friday.

The results: At Guwahati: NorthEast United FC 0 lost to SC Delhi 3 (Joseph Sunny 65, 69, Mohammed Aimen 80).
At Fatorda: FC Goa 3 (Dejan Drazic 62, Pol Moreno 81, Brison Fernandes 90+4-pen) bt Odisha FC 1 (V.P. Suhair 90+6).
On Thursday: At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Sarthak Golui 90) drew with Mumbai City FC 1 (Brandon Fernandes 45+2).

Compound mixed team in bronze-medal match

The Indian compound mixed team, consisting of Pragati and Ojas Deotale, kept its medal hopes alive by making it to the bronze-medal match at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Puebla, Mexico. They will will meet Americans Alexis Ruiz and Stephan Hansen.

The results: Recurve: Team: Men: India (B. Dhiraj, Tarundeep Rai, Yashdeep Bhoge) lost to Spain 0-6 (first round).
Women: India (Kumkum Mohod, Deepika Kumari, Simranjeet Kaur) bt Great Britain 5-1 (first round), lost to Turkiye 4-5 (shoot-off: 25-29) (quarterfinals).
Mixed team: India (Kumkum Mohod, B. Dhiraj) got a bye (first round), lost to Brazil 3-5 (second round).
Compound: Mixed: India (Pragati, Ojas Deotale) got a bye (first round), bt Chinese Taipei 155-151 (second round), bt Turkiye 154-152 (quarterfinal), lost to Denmark 149-157 (semifinal).

Ribhav claims his maiden title on the amateur circuit

Ribhav Verma emerged victorious at the IGU Hyderabad amateur golf championship at the Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club on Friday. The 18-year-old finished with a four-day aggregate of 10-under 278 for his maiden win on the amateur circuit. Ribhav's fine show under pressure on the final day helped him beat Order of Merit leader Deepak Yadav (283) to the title.

Final standings (top three): 278: Ribhav Verma (66, 69, 72, 71); **283:** Deepak Yadav (72, 71, 69, 71), Anshul Mishra (68, 71, 72, 72); **286:** Ranveer Mitroo (72, 73, 73, 68), Gulfam Hussain (73, 72, 71, 70), Parth Raman Sood (69, 71, 70, 76).

Indians paddlers continue to make merry

Indian paddlers extended their dominant run at the South Asia youth table tennis, moving into the singles quarterfinals in both U-19 and U-15 categories in Shimla on Friday. In under-19 boys, Priyanuj Bhattacharjee and Punit Biswas topped their groups with unbeaten records. The Indian girls Jennifer Varghese and Ananya Muralidharan also cruised through. In under-15, Aditya Das and Akshay Kirikara in boys and Chakraborty and Ahona Ray among the girls advanced.

Goal is to produce technically sound players: White

Hockey India on Friday officially named Tim White as junior India women's coach. The Australian has already taken charge and held a training session in Bengaluru. White had recently won a second consecutive bronze with the Belgium girls at the Junior World Cup in December and was also the head coach of the Tamil Nadu Dragons in the Hockey India League. "I want to keep the game simple and focus on our collective and individual strengths. We will aim to be a team that values attacking hockey but remains disciplined in our defensive structures. My goal is to produce technically sound players ready to bridge the gap and push for spots in the senior team," White said in a statement.

Back-nine birdie run gives McIlroy share of the lead with Burns

Reed, fellow American Kitayama and Australian Day are joint third on 69; Scheffler, Rose, Lowry and Schauffele are all on 70

GOLF

Agence France-Presse
AUGUSTA

In fine form: McIlroy curled in a 29-foot birdie putt at the par-five 15th as he matched Burns, who made three birdies in four holes on the back nine, atop the leaderboard.
GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS

Rory McIlroy reeled off three consecutive back-nine birdies to fire a five-under 67 and seize a share of the lead in Thursday's opening round of the 90th Masters with top-ranked Scottie Scheffler three adrift.

World No. 2 McIlroy, trying to become only the fourth golfer to win back-to-back Masters titles, curled in a 29-foot birdie putt at the par-five 15th as he matched Sam Burns atop the leaderboard at Augusta National.

The five-time Major champion from Northern Ireland pitched to three feet and tapped in for birdie at the par-five second hole but left a nine-foot par putt hanging on the edge to bogey the third.

McIlroy answered with a tap-in birdie at the eighth after reaching the green in two then made an eight-foot birdie putt at the ninth.

Impressive putt

McIlroy charged to the top with a 14-foot birdie putt at the par-five 13th, a seven-foot birdie putt at the par-four 14th and his impressive putt at 15.

He found a fairway bunker off the 18th tee but landed his approach 41 feet from the hole and two-putted.

Burns, seeking his first Major win, made three birdies in four holes on the back nine.

Patrick Reed, the 2018 Masters champion, eagled the second and eighth to join fellow American Kurt Kitayama and Australian Jason Day in sharing third on 69. Four-time Major winner Scheffler, seeking a third Masters crown in five seasons, shot 70 to share sixth.

He sank an 18-foot eagle putt at the second and drove the green at the par-four third to set up a tap-in birdie but got no lower all day.

England's 45-year-old Justin Rose, the 2013 US Open winner who lost a Masters playoff to McIlroy last year, closed with back-to-back bogeys to join the pack on 70 that also included Ireland's Shane Lowry and American Xander Schauffele.

Bryson DeChambeau, the 2020 and 2024 US Open champion, suffered a triple bogey at 11 and shot 76 while Spain's Jon Rahm shot 78.

The scores (first round, par-72):
67: Sam Burns, Rory McIlroy.
69: Patrick Reed, Kurt Kitayama, Jason Day.
70: Shane Lowry, Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Justin Rose.
71: Tommy Fleetwood, Aaron Rai, Gary Woodland, Brian Campbell, Jacob Bridgeman, Nick Taylor, Li Haotong.

SNAPSHOTS

Vishvanath blanks Iwai for 50kg gold

Vishvanath Suresh won the men's 50kg event, while Sachin Siwach bagged the 60kg silver on the concluding day of the Asian boxing championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Friday.

Vishvanath posted a 5-0 win over Japan's Daichi Iwai in the final to secure his first gold in an elite competition.

Sachin fought hard before losing 2-3 to reigning World champion Orazbek Assylkulov of Kazakhstan in the summit clash.

Vishvanath. X@BFI_OFFICIAL

Three freestyle grapplers assured of podium finish

Indian freestyle wrestlers Sujeet Kalkal (65kg), Abhimayou (70kg) and Sandeep Singh Mann (79kg) made sure three podium finishes by booking spots in the finals, while three women bagged medals at the Asian wrestling championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Friday.

Sujeet got past Kyrgyzstan's Rustamzhan Kakharov 10-0 and Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiev 7-2.

Abhimanyou beat China's Siming Wang 11-1 and Kyrgyzstan's Worlds bronze medallist and Asian champion Ernazar Akmataliev 6-3 enter the summit clash.

Sandeep posted wins over Jordan's Erzo Shamil Isakov 6-5 and Tajikistan's Somonjon Ikromov 10-0.

Ankush (57kg) and Vicky (97kg) remained in bronze medal contention.

Among women, Meenakshi lost 10-0 to Chin's Jin Zhang in the 53kg final. Monika (65kg) defeated Korea's Hanbit Lee 9-0, while Harshita (72kg) beat Uzbekistan's Sevinchoy Polvonova 5-0 to claim bronze.

India has a romp against Mongolia, keeps alive its chances of making the playoffs

TENNIS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

India stamped its dominance with a 3-0 win against minnows Mongolia in the Billie Jean King Cup Asia/Oceania Group I tie, to keep its chances of advancing alive by the barest of margins, here on Friday.

Playing on Court 1 after three days of action on Centre Court, India had little trouble wrapping up the proceedings in less than three hours.

Double bagel

Zeel Desai, put in by captain Vishal Uppal for match practice, drubbed 15-year-old Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-0, 6-0 in just 37 minutes for a winning start to her Billie Jean King Cup debut.

Sahaja Yamalapalli followed suit, taking five minutes more for her win against the 32-year-old Jargal Altansarnai by an identical scoreline. With Ankita Raina rested, Vaishnavi Adkar teamed up with Rutuja Bhosale to complete the formalities 6-1, 6-0 in 48 minutes as the matches had lesser intensity that even a casual hitting session.

Dream start: Zeel made an impressive debut, blanking Anu-Vjin in just 37 minutes. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

For Zeel, who pulled out of an ITF semifinal to join the Indian side at the last minute, it was a walk in the park.

The few points that her opponent did manage were more due to errors from Zeel than her own efforts, sending the ball flying in all directions and barely able to garner enough strength for a decent return.

It was the same story in the other two matches with the Mongolians barely staying in the match.

The Indians wouldn't complain, though, given the importance of every game, set and match to have any mathematical chance of staying in the race.

The quick wrap up will not only give the players time to recover but also an increased confidence before the crucial tie against Korea on Saturday.

India is currently fourth in the six-team competition with only the top-two advancing. Thailand improved its chances with a 3-0 win against New Zealand even as the unbeaten Indonesia went top of the table with a 2-1 win against Korea.

The results:
India bt Mongolia 3-0 [Zeel Desai bt Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-0, 6-0; Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Jargal Altansarnai 6-0, 6-0; Vaishnavi Adkar & Rutuja Bhosale bt Khongorzul Aldarkhishig & Anu-Vijn Gantor 6-1, 6-0].
Thailand bt New Zealand 3-0 [Anchisa Chanta bt Aishi Das 6-2, 6-3; Patcharin Cheapchandej bt Valentina Ivanov 6-2, 3-6, 7-5; Thasaporn Naklo & Kamonwan Yodpetch bt Monique Barry & Valentina Ivanov 6-4, 6-1].
Indonesia bt Korea 2-1 [Priska Madelyn Nugroho lost to Dayeon Back 5-7, 6-3, 2-6; Janice Tjen bt Eunhye Lee 6-2, 6-2; Aldila Sutjiadi & Janice Tjen bt Dayeon Back & Eunhye Lee 6-4, 6-3].

BFC holds all the aces in Blasters clash

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Two to tango: BFC's star player Chhetri with head coach Munoz.
K. MURALI KUMAR

These are new tidings at both Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC, who will meet in a high-profile Indian Super League clash at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday. Both have new managers in place. BFC will welcome Spaniard Pep Munoz to the dugout for the first time this season while Blasters will be marshalled by BFC old hand Ashley Westwood for only the second time.

But the fortunes of the respective teams couldn't be more divergent. After seven games, BFC sits fourth in the table (14 points) while Blasters are languishing in 13th place (one) in the 14-team league. It's a no-brainer which of the two camps is happier.

"I am always intrigued when some fresh ideas come in," said BFC talisman Sunil Chhetri, while welcoming Munoz, on match-eve. "Especially when I'm 42, I need that!

"When a new coach comes, there's a preconceived notion that everything has to change. He has kept telling us that things are going to be different in future but right now, it's just some adjustments so that boys don't feel overwhelmed.

"And I've told him that we are adaptable and we do exactly what the coach wants. If I do it, everyone will do it," Chettri added.

For Westwood though, a lot has to change. The 49-year-old, who built his coaching career on the back of the three golden years at BFC from 2013 to 2016, was impressed with his team's performance in the second half of the 0-2 reverse against Sporting Delhi last Sunday, and hoped to further that improvement. "It is always difficult coming into a team midway through the season," Westwood told *The Hindu*. "Most times, you come in because the manager before you has had poor results. But you have to instil some confidence and put some ideas in without overloading."

The methodologies of the coaches differ too. After Westwood's departure, BFC broke away from the Englishman's template and appointed Albert Roca, who was schooled in the possession-heavy tactics of Barcelona. Munoz has the same lineage. "Football is a game for the fans and my team should be able to create chances because that's how supporters have fun," Munoz said.

The results: At Guwahati: NorthEast United FC 0 lost to SC Delhi 3 (Joseph Sunny 65, 69, Mohammed Aimen 80).
At Fatorda: FC Goa 3 (Dejan Drazic 62, Pol Moreno 81, Brison Fernandes 90+4-pen) bt Odisha FC 1 (V.P. Suhair 90+6).
On Thursday: At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Sarthak Golui 90) drew with Mumbai City FC 1 (Brandon Fernandes 45+2).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: Garudda Hockey Club emerged as the KSHA 'B' Division hockey league champion on Friday.

Big win for Parikrma

Parikrma FC whipped Technico 6-1 in the KSFA 'A' division football league here on Friday.

The results: 'A' division: Parikrma FC bt Technico 6-1; SRFC bt Pass FC Sparks 4-1.
'B' division: Technico bt Blues FA 2-1; Kemp Junior FC bt Hawks United SA 1-0.

Shanthinagar eases past Shivaji Nagar

Shanthinagar blanked Shivaji Nagar 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament on Friday.

The results: Quarterfinals: Shanthinagar bt Shivaji Nagar 6-0; Rajajinagar bt Sarvagna Nagar 2-2 (via 5-4 on penalties).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Golf: Augusta Masters, FanCode, 9.30 p.m.